



Institutionalizing Research Ethics and Scholarly Integrity: Model Programs

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RCR– Implementing a degree requirement

- In 1993, the *Executive Committee of the Graduate Faculty (ECGF)* set a goal that RCR training would become a formal Ph.D. degree requirement across all departments at Duke
- Annual RCR Orientation programs began in mid-1990s
 - Expanded from Biomedical Sciences to other departments
- By Fall 2003, RCR became a formal degree requirement for every Ph.D. student and is noted on official transcripts (~2,300 active Ph.D. students; enroll ~500 PhDs annually)

RCR Core Expectations

- Why is RCR training an **academic** requirement?
 - Compliance to federal mandates (NIH, NSF, NEH, etc.)
 - Practical training for RAs and TAs
 - Professional and ethical development
 - Documentation for funding sources/training grants
 - Preparation for the next generation of scholars
 - Carnegie Initiative on Doctorate: “*Stewards of the Discipline*”
 - Current students will face **ethical & professional challenges** that **don't exist now**
 - Promoting research that **gains the public trust** and **contributes to society**

Duke's approach to RCR education

- “Duke model for RCR”
 - Collaborative
 - Real-life experiences
 - Expands horizons
 - Generating ethical questions together
 - Interdisciplinary
 - Goal= improve ability to respond to ethical challenges individually or with others

Communication to Students- Website & Email; Google calendar (in process)

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ACADEMICS

RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH (PH.D. REQUIREMENT)

Duke University Graduate School strives to promote responsible research and academic integrity by:

- engaging in strategic planning on RCR education
- providing training on RCR topics
- developing RCR educational resources
- evaluating RCR educational programs, and
- presenting key findings to the scholarly community.

RCR training is a formal requirement of the Ph.D. degree in every department and program of study at Duke. This reflects our expectation that every doctoral candidate will be well qualified to address the growing ethical challenges that arise when teaching or conducting research. We collaborate with faculty and staff across [Duke University](#) and [Duke University Medical Center](#), with experts from nearby institutions in the [Research Triangle](#), and with national and federal organizations including the [Council of Graduate Schools](#) and the [U.S. Office of Research Integrity](#).

Since the 1990s, Duke Graduate School has been at the forefront of the development of RCR training, and we have expanded RCR training to every Ph.D. student to ensure that all graduate students who receive funding by federal agencies (NIH, NSF, etc.) are in compliance with federal guidelines and mandates for such training. The Graduate School's RCR program has developed from a modest orientation for certain biological science fields to our current structure of face-to-face training offered via three RCR Orientations (by academic discipline groups), two-hour RCR Forum workshops, and department-specific training. A summary of our RCR program, designed for Duke faculty to incorporate into NIH or NSF research grant proposals, can be found here:

[NIH Grants RCR Summary \(pdf\)](#)

Structure of Duke RCR training

- **RCR Orientation** - Graduate School/SOM
 - Basic Medical Sciences (12 of 18 training hours required)
 - Natural Sciences & Engineering (6 of 12 training hours required)
 - Humanities & Social Sciences (6 of 12 training hours required)
- **RCR Forum Events** – Graduate School/Depts.
 - 20-25 events per year (2-hour or 4-hour workshops/retreats)
 - Led by the Graduate School or Dept./Program when pre-approved by the Graduate School
- **Online modules**
 - Limited to graduate students whose research or travel conflicts with regular campus RCR offerings
 - Occasional use as background material & preparation for face-to-face

RCR Orientation

– Basic Med Sciences



- Weekend Retreat- Acad. Integrity & RCR
- Entering Biomedical Science PhDs
 - 17 depts, ~120 new graduate students
- Held at Duke Marine Lab (Beaufort, NC)
- Faculty co-directors and ~15 faculty leaders
- Serves as RCR training & Orientation to Basic Medical Science programs

RCR Orientation – On Campus

- 2 Sessions by Academic Division
 - Humanities & Social Sciences
 - 17 depts. , ~140 new students
 - Natural Science & Engineering
 - 18 depts., ~240 new students

- Mandatory
 - 9 am-5 pm week of Orientation (pre-class start)

RCR Instructional Components

- Didactic and small group discussions
- Face-to-face discussion; active learning
- Use of case studies (APPE/RCREC), current news events, and web resources (ORI)
- Faculty panels, staff, and guest/keynote speakers
 - NIEHS/NIH guest speakers
 - Faculty from Duke, UNC, NCSU, etc.
 - IACUC, IRB (campus and medical), Scholarly Communications, Student Conduct, Export Controls, etc.

RCR Forums – Ongoing training

- “Ethics of Pain Management in Animal Care & Use”
- “Environmental Justice and Responsible Research”
- “Improving data integrity and patient safety in clinical research: lessons from the Human Simulation & Patient Safety Center”
- “Copyright and Fair Use in Research and Teaching”
- “Great Expectations of Research Advisers and Mentors”
- “From Publication to Publicity: Ethical Issues in Interactions between Scientists and the Media”
- “Ethical Challenges in Non-Medical Research with Human Subjects: Informed Consent”
- “Access to Scholarly Materials: Ethical Dilemmas in Research”
- “What’s in a Picture? The temptation of image manipulation”

Expanding RCR at Duke:

America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010

- During 2010-11, Duke expanded RCR training to include:
 - [Postdoc fellows \(Ofc. of Postdoc Services/ Ofc. of Research Support\)](#)
 - Annual RCR Orientation for postdocs
 - Trent Center for Bioethics, Humanities, History of Medicine events
 - 5-week course geared for NIH training grant recipients
 - [Undergraduates in research \(Undergraduate Research Support Ofc.\)](#)
 - Ex., Howard Hughes Research Fellows

- Comply with H.R. 5116
 - *America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010* (Public Law 111-358) which took effect Jan. 4, 2011
 - Also complies with NIH / NSF criteria

Research on RCR training

- Duke has participated in 3 research projects on RCR:
 - (1) Council of Graduate Schools/ US Ofc of Research Integrity
 - one of 9 universities
 - Evaluated 10 years of data from biomedical science RCR Orientation (aka, “Beaufort Retreat”)
 - Identified ‘best practices’ in RCR program development
 - (2) NSF Ethics Education in Science & Engineering (EASE)
 - “From Micro to Macro Ethics: Advancing RCR education in Nanoscience”
 - Compared pedagogies to address nanobiotechnology RCR training
 - (3) Council of Graduate Schools – Project for Scholarly Integrity
 - <http://www.scholarlyintegrity.org/>

CGS/ORI RCR Best Practices

■ Graduate student perspective

- Informative in content
- Must be engaging in format
- Relevant to program and level of experience *as graduate students*
- Must address ethical questions relevant to steps in research, not ethical theories
- Focus on Duke policies and how they matter
- Other info “will be” important to me... later.

CGS/ORI RCR Best Practices

- Faculty and dept. perspective
 - Agree faculty support is vital
 - Think advanced graduate student leadership should be limited
 - Many faculty have not received this training
 - Faculty needed to make ‘discipline-specific’

CGS/ORI RCR Best Practices

■ Administrative perspective

- Ongoing program and curriculum development
 - Enhance web sites for graduate students
 - Provide resources/readings in advance
 - Create sequenced topics for learning
- Choose appropriate modes of delivery
 - Active learning formats
 - Provide handouts, materials (esp. for Int'l Students)
- Educate speakers about best practices
- Conduct ongoing assessment of learning outcomes and program

NSF Ethics Education in Science & Engineering (Grant #0530053)

P.I., Tod Laursen, Pratt School of Engineering

- Identify effective RCR teaching strategies to address ‘macroethics’ of nanobiotechnology
- Macroethics = societal implications of research (downstream impact on environment, society)
- Microethics = understand individual behavior (lab notes) and professional responsibility
- Project compared 3 pedagogical methods and diverse audience groups:
 - case study discussions
 - didactic teaching on ethical theories
 - writing professional ethics codes

NSF EESE Results

- Code of Ethics writing and case-study analysis as ‘active learning’ methods promote ethical awareness and ethical decision-making skills
- Didactic instruction on ethical theory is less engaging or perceived as not relevant
- Interdisciplinary audiences can significantly raise awareness of diverse ethical issues
 - Study began w/ PhDs in 2 engineering centers; ethical awareness was limited to disciplinary issues
 - Later groups of humanities, social scientists, and STEM researchers identified a wider range of ‘macro ethical’ issues (environment, health, etc.)

Plans for using “The Lab” Video



- Fall 2011- Basic Med Sci RCR Orientation
 - Faculty co-directors plan to use
- Fall 2011- RCR Forum
 - STEM disciplines
- Feedback via Qualtrics survey (pre/post)

RCR Training at Duke- Challenges

- Resources
 - \$\$
 - Faculty - ~35 faculty, 15 TAs, 10 staff participate in Orientation
 - Staff time
- Faculty are volunteers and not 'experts' in research ethics
- Encouraging Department/Program/School specific forums
- Limited training resources (esp. Humanities)
- Assessment
- Master's degree
 - NIH/NSF require if funded, but not yet an academic requirement
- Discipline-specific training & faculty buy-in:
 - - especially challenging in the Humanities

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- NSF Ethics Education in Science & Engineering



National Science Foundation
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN

RCR Resources



National Science Foundation
WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN

■ NSF EESE Project Outcomes

□ CITI (Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative)

- See <https://www.citiprogram.org/Default.asp>

- Module: RCR for Engineers

□ Online Modules, National Academy of Engineering [Online Ethics Center](#)

□ Books: [Dr. Daniel A. Vallero](#)

- Environmental Biotechnology: A Biosystems Approach (2010)

- Sustainable Design: The science of sustainability and green engineering (2008)

- Biomedical Ethics for Engineers (2007)

- Socially Responsible Engineering: Justice in Risk Mgmt (2006)

□ Article: Vallero & James

- “Comparison of pedagogies to address macroethics of nanobiotechnologies.” *Ethics in Biology, Engineering & Medicine*(Vol.1:No.3)