

Grinnell College Responsible Conduct of Research Training Plan

The America COMPETES Act of 2007 established guidelines requiring research and education proposals to present a plan for “appropriate training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research”. Grinnell College will ensure that research trainees—undergraduate students, postbaccalaureate scholars, and postdoctoral fellows—who are paid through federal grants or working on federally funded projects will receive training in the responsible conduct of research (RCR).

Training policy:

- Research trainees at Grinnell College receive RCR training through the online [CITI](#) RCR training program and through discussions with their faculty research mentors, which may cover aspects of RCR that are specific to the research question and techniques of the project.
- Individuals subject to the training requirement are expected to complete online training before beginning their research projects.

Principal investigator and research trainee responsibilities:

- PIs are responsible for notifying students and other research trainees in their research groups of the need to complete RCR training. Information on how to enroll in a CITI course can be found [here](#); trainees should select the Responsible Conduct of Research Courses from the list of courses and modules.
- PIs submitting proposals for federal funding agree to comply with Grinnell’s RCR training and mentoring requirements when they sign Grinnell’s Compliance and Disclosure form. On this form, PIs indicate they have reviewed Grinnell’s RCR training plan and will comply with the plan’s training and mentoring requirements. This form must be completed before their proposal can be submitted to the federal agency for review.
- Students and other individuals subject to the training requirement are required to complete the appropriate CITI modules for the research being undertaken. PIs will determine which training program is most appropriate for trainees in their research groups.

Questions?

- For questions about accessing CITI, please contact Jennifer Krohn (ext. 3707).
- Students, postbaccalaureate or postdoctoral fellows, and other research trainees at Grinnell are encouraged to share their questions and concerns about the ethical conduct of research with their faculty mentors.