



Training Graduate Students in the Responsible Conduct of Research: An Expanded Program

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Best Practices in RCR Education for Graduate Students

1. Establishing an Advisory Board
2. Providing Public Forums
3. Offering Two-Tiered Instruction
4. Teaching Ethical Reasoning Skills
5. Making RCR Training Mandatory
6. Developing Multi-Level Assessment



Council of Graduate Schools

Advocacy, Research, and Innovation



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Responsible Conduct of Research Initiatives

The Council of Graduate Schools has launched a major initiative designed to enhance the training of graduate students in the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR). This initiative is made possible by funding from the [Office of Research Integrity](#) (ORI) and from the [National Science Foundation](#) (NSF). With the support of the ORI, CGS has given awards to ten member institutions to generate and test innovative and strategic interventions and assessment strategies for improving and institutionalizing RCR education in the behavioral and biomedical sciences. With the support of NSF, CGS will give awards to eight additional institutions for full implementation projects in RCR education, focusing primarily on programs in science and engineering that cross disciplinary boundaries.

The broader goals of this initiative are: to develop a cadre of graduate deans who will serve as leaders in RCR education; to generate information about what works best in RCR education at a range of institutions and in a range of disciplines; and to document the results of the funded projects in a monograph on best practices.

The CGS initiative stems from a growing concern that many, if not most, students, postdoctoral fellows, technicians, and even faculty, arrive in the laboratory not fully informed about the norms of science, the ethical requirements of research, or the policies and regulations that govern research in the U.S. Moreover, many situations in which ethical issues arise are complex, and they demand distinct skills for identifying and assessing

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