

Responsible Conduct of Research at New York University

NYU has recently introduced a centralized program of Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training. As an undergraduate involved in federally-funded research it is both required and desirable that you acquaint yourself with the basic concepts underlying RCR.

Because research may be a relatively new experience for you, we have developed this summary of NYU's expectations as you embark on this new endeavor. As a nationally and internationally-recognized leader in research, NYU's researchers are expected to adhere to the highest standards of integrity. Your introduction to RCR should be provided by your mentor. He or she and senior members of the research team will be available to answer your questions in order to help you understand the responsibilities of researchers and the policies which NYU has put in place to ensure the integrity of the research.

Every research team member has a duty to avoid conflicts between his or her personal interests and official responsibilities and to comply with University and applicable School codes and guidelines for reporting and reviewing actual and potential conflicts of interest and conflicts of commitment. Avoidance of conflicts of interest helps to ensure that research is conducted and presented accurately and objectively.

The dissemination of the results of research through peer-reviewed publications is a hallmark of academic life. You should discuss with your mentor the authorship practices of your discipline because such practices may vary from discipline to discipline. Disagreements on attribution of credit and responsibility for work in collaborative research are two of the most common areas of concern among researchers. An understanding of each person's role in the research should be established at the beginning of a project in order to avoid any disputes as the research proceeds.

Members of the University are expected to create and maintain records and documentation which fully conform to all applicable laws and professional and ethical standards. Accurate and appropriately recorded data is an integral step to ensuring its integrity. In the biological and social sciences, animal and/or human subjects may be the source of the research data generated. Experimental designs must take into account both the protection of the subject populations and well as the smallest sample size possible to yield meaningful and generalizable results.

The Principal Investigator is the steward of data generated at NYU and is responsible for ensuring appropriate retention of such data and access to it by both the University and sponsoring agencies, as applicable. Members of the research team are required to leave original data at the University when they depart, although they may be permitted to take copies of it, as appropriate.

Each member of the University is expected to uphold the standards of New York University and to report suspected violations of the Code of Conduct (<http://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/code-of-ethical-conduct.html>) or any other apparent irregularity to his or her mentor, or the NYU NO CALLER ID toll-free COMPLIANCE LINE (877) 360-7626. If a member

prefers, he or she may make the report anonymously (by mail, online at www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/compliance/compliance-reportingline.html), or by the Compliance Line).

If you are interested in learning more about RCR topics, we invite you to participate in the classes which have been developed by NYU. The curriculum for FY2012 is currently being developed and will be posted at: <http://www.nyu.edu/research/resources-and-support-offices/training-and-certification/rcrtraining.html>

You may also learn more about RCR through discussions with your mentor and through the following resources:

NYU Research Misconduct Policy:

<http://www.nyu.edu/content/dam/nyu/research/documents/OSP/scientificmisconduct2008.pdf>

NYU Conflict of Interest Policy: Faculty Handbook, page 104ff.

<http://www.nyu.edu/content/dam/nyu/research/documents/OSP/FacHbk2008.pdf>

National Academy of Science Publication "On Being a Scientist":

http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=4917

DHHS Office of Research Integrity – Educational Resources:

http://ori.hhs.gov/education/rcr_resources.shtml