Background. The America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education and Science (COMPETES) Act was signed into law in August 2007. Section 7009 requires that “each institution that applies for financial assistance from the National Science Foundation for science and engineering research or education describe in its grant proposal a plan to provide appropriate training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research to undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers participating in the proposed research project.” These individuals are referred to collectively as “Students” below.

Key features:
--Each institution must have an education plan
--The plan is not required to be included in each proposal, but is subject to NSF review
--One or more persons must oversee compliance
--There must be verification that each Student has received the training

Applicability. Proposals submitted to NSF on or after January 4, 2010

University of Kentucky Plan. The University of Kentucky will meet this requirement by using the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Course provided by the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI). CITI is a web-based training tool that has been utilized by UK for many years to provide Human Subject Protection training. There is no cost to the Student or the University for the use of CITI. The University will likely develop a different plan in the future that will include a more customized and varied approach to RCR training.

To use CITI, the Student first chooses one of the discipline areas below:
- Biomedical
- Social and Behavioral
- Physical Science
- Humanities
- Engineers

The Student must then complete each module and pass tests covering the material:
1. Introduction to Responsible Conduct of Research
2. Research Misconduct
3. Data Acquisition and Management
4. Responsible Authorship
5. Peer Review
6. Mentoring
7. Conflicts of Interest
8. Collaborative Research

Instructions for using CITI are attached, including contact information for assistance.
Responsibilities. The Principal Investigator is responsible for informing each Student of this requirement and ensuring that the training is completed within three months of beginning work on an NSF grant, by the end of the academic year or the end of the grant period, whichever occurs first.

Each Student supported by an NSF grant must log into CITI, complete each module and pass the tests. This must be done within three months of beginning work on an NSF grant, by the end of the academic year or the end of the grant period, whichever occurs first.

The Office of Sponsored Projects Administration will include information about the requirement with each new NSF account. When a student successfully completes the CITI RCR course OSPA will receive notice. OSPA will periodically review a list of Students supported by NSF grants and select samples to verify that each Student has completed the CITI course.

Please note that RCR is in addition to any other research compliance training that may be required of the Student (e.g., human subjects protection, care and use of animals, laboratory safety, etc.)

For questions regarding CITI registration contact the Office of Research Integrity (ORI) at:
Selena Smith Helene Lake-Bullock Belinda Smith
selena.smith@uky.edu hlbullo@uky.edu belinda.smith@uky.edu
859-257-0582 859-257-9428 859-323-2446

For questions regarding the NSF requirements for RCR Training, contact OSPA:
Deborah Davis, Deborah.davis@uky.edu, 859 257-8311

Policies.NSF RCR.doc
11/09
Contact info rev 10/2012