**Responsible Conduct of Research Training Q & A:**

**What is Responsible Conduct of Research?**

It “is simply good citizenship applied to professional life.” (Steneck, N. H. *Introduction to the Responsible Conduct of Research.* Revised ed. Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office, 2004, p. xi) It encompasses the notion that all professionals have ethical responsibilities, not just the bench scientists.

The Council of Graduate Schools has a broader definition that suggests RCR includes all aspects of individual character and behavior that impact research. It refers to scientific integrity of the researcher and the reliability of the product of research itself. (Tate, P. D. *Graduate Education for the Responsible Conduct of Research.* Washington, DC: Council of Graduate Schools, 2006, p. ix)

The term also suggests the importance of ethics in research, particularly in the area of research misconduct. Research misconduct includes behaviors of falsification, fabrication, and plagiarism. (Office of Science and Technology Policy, *Federal Policy on Research Misconduct*. <http://www.ostp.gov/htm;/001207_3.html>  (2005))

**Who must complete RCR Training?**

Graduate students initiating research projects for professional papers, theses, or dissertations and their faculty advisor.

**Will TWU students already working on professional papers, theses, or dissertation research have to take the RCR training and show documentation of completion?**

No. The current policy will impact those students who file a prospectus for the professional paper, thesis, or dissertation after January 1, 2013.

**Will faculty advisors already working with students on professional papers, theses, or dissertations have to take the RCR and show documentation of completion?**

No. Faculty advisors will not have to show documentation of completion of the RCR training for any professional paper, thesis, or dissertation that was ongoing prior to January 1, 2013. However, any new professional paper, thesis, or dissertation will require the faculty advisor’s documentation of completion of the RCR training.

**Does the RCR training policy speak to any other type research for students?**

The current RCR training policy speaks only to professional papers, theses, and dissertations.

**How is the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training different from IRB?**

The RCR training addresses ethical issues that impact the following components of research behavior:

1. the acquisition, management, sharing, and ownership of data
2. conflict of interest and commitment
3. human subjects
4. animal welfare
5. research misconduct (falsification, fabrication, plagiarism)
6. publication practices and responsible authorship
7. mentor/trainee responsibilities
8. peer review
9. collaborative science

**When will faculty have to start taking the RCR training and documenting their completion of the training?**

Faculty may start taking the RCR training now, particularly if they are expecting students to submit a prospectus for professional paper, thesis, or dissertation at any time during the Spring 2013 semester.

In addition, all faculty will have to submit documentation of completion of RCR training with their next application for Graduate Faculty Membership. A revised application form will ask for the date of completion and inclusion of the certificate of completion.

**How long does it take to complete a CITI program course?**

Each institution has specific instructional requirements for their learners. Each CITI Program module requires that you read a specified amount of text and complete a quiz at the end of each module.   
 The average learner spends approximately 4.5 hours with approximately 5 logins to complete the Basic Course. The average learner requires approximately 2 hours to complete a CITI Program “Refresher Course.”

**How do I know I passed a course or not?**

If you have completed all of the modules but your course status states “Not Passed” you most likely have not met the grade requirement set by your institution. Each institution decides on what constitutes a passing score for their learners. This can range anywhere from 0% to 100%. You can re-enter each module and re-take each quiz to achieve a passing score as necessary.

**How are quiz scores calculated?**

Quiz scores are calculated by dividing the number of correct answers by the number of the total answers, multiplied by 100.  
   
Example: 8 correct answers out of 10 questions total.  
                           o   8/10 = .8  
                           o   .8 X 100 = 80  
                           o   Your quiz score = 80%

**How do I view the modules that I have completed?**

From your Main Menu, select the "Previous Coursework" link and then select the "All Modules" link to view all of the modules that you have completed. After successful completion of the training, you will be informed by the program and you are encouraged to print several copies of the certificate. This process is similar to the IRB training.

**My course state “Not Passed—Re-Enter.”**

If you have completed all the modules but your course status states, “Not Passed” you most likely have not met the grade requirement set by your institution. Each institution decides on what the passing score for their learners will be. This score can range anywhere from 0-100%.  You can re-enter the modules and re-take the quizzes to achieve a passing score.

**What is the cost to TWU to participate in the RCR training initiative?**

TWU pays $2,200 per year for the participation.