**Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)**

**Purpose of Policy**

The purpose of this policy is to set forth Barnard College’s requirements and plan to ensure researcher training on the responsible and ethical conduct of research for all National Science Foundation (NSF) and relevant National Institutes of Health (NIH) awards. This policy addresses current NSF and NIH requirements and will be amended, as needed, to address any additional agency requirements.

**Policy Background**

As of January 4, 2010, the NSF [requires](http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/rcr.jsp) that all institutions have in place plans to ensure the responsible conduct of research (RCR) and provide “appropriate training and oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research to undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers who will be supported by NSF to conduct research.”

Training plans do not have to be included in proposals submitted to NSF, but they are subject to review upon request.

NIH also requires RCR training for all trainees, fellows, participants, and scholars receiving support through any NIH training, career development, research education, or dissertation research grant as well as any other grant programs that include a training component and that require RCR instruction in the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA). NIH’s requirement applies to all new and renewal applications submitted on or after January 25, 2010, and to all continuation applications submitted on or after January 1, 2011. For more details, see the NIH [Requirement for Instruction in the Responsible Conduct of Research](http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/not-od-10-019.html).

**Barnard Policy and Procedures**

Barnard College requires that **all undergraduate students, postdoctoral researchers and graduate students** who participate in NSF-sponsored research or relevant NIH training grant programs complete RCR training.

Principal investigators (PIs) at Barnard are responsible for assuring that undergraduates who are funded by their NSF projects awarded on or after January 4, 2010 complete RCR training. In addition, PIs are responsible for ensuring that postdoctoral researchers or graduate students involved in their NSF-sponsored research at Barnard have already completed or receive appropriate RCR training.

Training should be completed within two months of a researcher’s commencement of work on an NSF-funded project. Where individuals are working on NSF projects for a short time, such as the summer, training should be completed within the first week of participation.

Any trainee, fellow, participant or scholar receiving support from NIH for training, career development, research education, or dissertation research awards or any other grant program that includes a training component and that requires instruction in the FOA, must complete RCR training. To satisfy the NIH RCR training requirement, some in-person training may be required; PIs should discuss training options with the Director of Sponsored Research.

Barnard College has designated the Director of Sponsored Research to oversee RCR training compliance, which includes verifying that NSF-supported researchers and any NIH-funded researchers on awards with a relevant training component have completed RCR training.

**RCR Training Options**

Barnard College requires the completion of at least one of the following training options:

1. Completion of relevant on-line Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) modules for NSF-funded researchers and any researchers on relevant NIH training grants. These can be accessed through Columbia University’s [Rascal](https://www.rascal.columbia.edu/) system.

PIs should select relevant CITI courses for all student researchers associated with their NSF or NIH training grants based on their research and role(s), and inform them about how to access the training. Note: CITI courses satisfy NSF requirements, but PIs of NIH training grants may need to coordinate or provide additional in-person training. PIs who have questions about additional training should consult with the Director of Sponsored Research.

Upon completion of CITI coursework, each student or other participant must print a certificate, and PIs are responsible for submitting certificates to the Director of Sponsored Research.

1. Some departments have developed workshops or courses that address the responsible and ethical conduct of research. Completion of a Barnard course or workshop on RCR can satisfy the training requirements or be used to supplement CITI training.

Barnard encourages departments to consider best practices and pedagogical innovations in ethics education, such as those available at the National Academy of Engineering [website](http://www.nae.edu/File.aspx?id=14634), as training resources are developed and refined.