Federal Requirements

Section 7009 of the COMPETES Act mandates that institutions applying for financial assistance from the National Science Foundation (NSF) provide training in the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) for undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers participating in the proposed research project to be funded by NSF. NSF has issued regulations, effective January 4, 2010, requiring that, at the time of proposal submission to NSF, a proposing institution’s Authorized Organizational Representative certify that the institution has a plan to 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. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has long had a similar requirement for trainees, fellows, participants, and scholars receiving support through any training, career development awards (individual or institutional), research education grants and dissertation research grants.

North Carolina A&T State University Policy for Responsible Conduct of Research Training

For North Carolina A&T State University (NCAT) to comply with NSF and NIH requirements, the following constitutes NCAT’s policy for training in Responsible Conduct of Research:

1. For all NSF and NIH applications for programs specified in the above described federal requirements, the principal investigator (PI) must agree to participate in NCAT’s training protocols that govern the effective implementation of Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR).
2. The Division of Research and Economic Development (DORED) shall provide a two-part training program that includes online RCR training and recurring RCR lectures. A successful completion of the on-line training requires a minimum score of no less than 80%.

3. The PI will be required to successfully complete both parts of RCR training within 30 days of submission of a proposal to NSF or NIH.

4. All participants on a funded research project will be required to successfully complete both parts of RCR training before beginning work on a funded project.

5. The PI shall conduct research in a responsible and ethical manner and provide appropriate oversight in the responsible and ethical conduct of research to undergraduates, graduates and postdoctoral researchers supported on his/her research project.

6. If during the grant period additional faculty, undergraduate and graduate students, and/or postdoctoral researchers join the funded project, the project PI MUST inform the Office of Compliance of the addition of personnel; the new personnel must then become certified for RCR through the established training procedures outlined above.

Date Original is Effective: Upon approval

Approved by the Board of Trustees

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Revised: