

*EXAMPLE of how to format the RCR section. To meet the NIH requirement in RCR, trainees will need to take advantage of **multiple** training methods and not just one course.*

Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research

- 1) **Format:** The Principles of Scientific Ethics course (GRD 717) includes a blended approach of on-line training and in-person discussion on topics related to the responsible conduct of research (RCR). Specifically, the on-line training component includes completion of all RCR-related CITI Program modules; participants are required to successfully complete each of these modules, achieving a score of 80% or better. Once completed, participants then attend an in-person discussion session that consists of an all-day (8 hours) Saturday workshop facilitated by training program directors, preceptors, and administrators. Three Saturday sessions are offered so that participants and facilitators have the opportunity to select a date that best fits their schedules. These sessions debate case-studies in a team-based learning format as well as allow for additional RCR-related activities, such as panel discussions with faculty and administrators regarding ‘real-world’ RCR examples and role-playing RCR scenarios.
- 2) **Subject Matter:** Topics covered in GRD 717 include the nature, extent, and causes of fraud in science; UAB policies on fraud; ideals of good science; the responsibilities of authorship and peer review; potential problems raised by the commercialization of research; scientists as public policy advisors; and ethical issues involved in animal experimentation and in clinical trials. Among the areas previously discussed are:
 - Ethical Decision Making
 - UAB Policies on Research Misconduct
 - Protection of Human Subjects in Research
 - Welfare of Laboratory Animals
 - Best Practices for Data Management
 - Identifying and Managing Conflicts of Interest
 - Ethical Authorship and Avoiding Plagiarism
 - Best Practices in Collaborative Research
 - Mentor and Trainee Responsibilities
 - Expectations of the Peer Review Process
- 3) **Faculty Participation:** GRD 717 is led by Lisa Schwiebert, Ph.D, Associate Dean, UAB Graduate School, using a “Team Based Learning” approach. She is assisted by faculty facilitators, including T32 program directors, who maintain active research labs and have graduate faculty status. These facilitators lead discussions with graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in the responsible conduct of research.
- 4) **Duration of Instruction:** For the 12 on-line learning modules each module may take from 10 to 30 minutes to complete; average completion time for all modules is four hours. The modules do not have to be completed all in one login session. The in-person workshop provides 8 contact hours of instruction.
- 5) **Frequency of Instruction:** This course is offered in the Fall, Spring, and Summer semester of each year meeting weekly over the course of the semester. On-line modules are available at all times. In-person workshops are offered on Saturdays in order to accommodate trainees’ research schedules; accommodations for trainees unable to participate on Saturdays are also provided.

Is your mentor involved in teaching this course? If so, add details as needed to reflect their involvement. If not, what are they doing personally to mentor you in RCR? Describe using the 5 point description as modeled above. Need help with the description?
Contact the CCTS Research Commons ccts@uab.edu or 934-7442.