

Scholarship and Research Integrity (SARI) training for undergraduate researchers:

Per new University requirements, completion of on-line SARI training is now required for all undergraduate researchers who are performing independent research which may lead to, or be included in, a publication or any form of public dissemination (e.g., a poster or oral presentation at a meeting). **This includes students presenting at our annual Hazleton Campus Research Fair.** Students participating in research projects as part of their coursework only are NOT required to complete this training. As a result of this new requirement, undergraduate researchers who begin work this fall 2011 should take the online training offered by CITI. Participation should be encouraged and monitored by faculty advisors.

TO COMPLETE SARI TRAINING:

You can access all SARI training modules through the CITI program: www.citiprogram.org. Faculty advisors will probably want to help guide their students through the initial process to make sure they complete the proper module.

At the CITI program website you must first create a new account:

- Select “New users: register here”.
- Click and create an account (unless you already have one).
- “Select your institution” – scroll down to Pennsylvania State University
- Create your account: You do not need to use your PSU username and password when asked to create them (in fact, you probably should use something different).
- Students do not need to request (and pay for) CME/CEU credits.

When all basic information has been entered, it then asks you for information requested by PSU.

- Fill in required fields plus: PSU ID, degree being sought.
- Department – If in doubt, talk to your faculty advisor to determine what to list as your Department name.

You are now ready to select the required Curriculum: There are 3 basic options:

Courses for human subjects researchers (IRB courses), for biomedical or social/behavioral researchers. These courses are required for IRB approval, and will also meet the SARI requirements.

Responsible conduct of research (RCR) courses in a variety of discipline areas. These courses do NOT meet the IRB requirements for human subjects research approval. *Students who are engaged, or who will be engaged, in research covered by IRB regulations should instead select the above IRB course.*

Refresher courses (IRB or RCR versions). Faculty may select one of these shorter offerings if they feel they are knowledgeable about current research ethics issues, or have previously had training (CITI or other) in this area, and do not need to take a full-length course.

For most students, option 2 (RCR) is preferred. However, if the student is planning on participating in research involving human subjects (i.e., a research project requiring an IRB review), then option 1 (IRB) is more appropriate.

Depending on your choice, you will be presented with another series of options for specific courses based on your particular research interests. For example, if you select option 2, the RCR course, you are given the following options:

- ☐ Biomedical RCR Course
- ☐ Physical Science RCR Course
- ☐ Social and Behavioral RCR Course
- ☐ RCR for Humanities
- ☐ RCR for Engineers

After selecting the best option for you, you must now read over and complete 7-8 modules. All required modules must be passed with a combined score of at least 80%

The RCR introductory materials recommends the following:

“A rigorous review of required materials and completion of the quizzes will likely require about 20-30 minutes per topic. You should **NOT** attempt to complete the course in one session. Multiple log in sessions of 60-90 minutes each is the most effective way to use the course site”.
EXPECT COMPLETION OF THIS TRAINING TO TAKE A TOTAL OF 3-4 HOURS!

NOTES ON QUIZ TAKING:

- Be careful in your quiz – if you scroll down with your mouse to get to the next question, you can change your answer in the previous multiple choice question completed.
- You can immediately re-take each quiz to try to improve. If you do poorly on a quiz, read over the questions you got wrong, learn from this, and try again. You won’t necessarily get the same questions, but you might as well re-try while material is fresh on your mind.

FINAL REQUIREMENT FOR STUDENTS:

When you have completed all required elements for all of the topic areas, you will be able to download a completion report. **PRINT THIS OUT TWICE.** Keep a copy for yourself, and give the other copy to your research advisor for their records. You will need this print-out to present your work at the PSU, Hazleton Research Fair in the spring.

NOTES FOR FACULTY ADVISORS:

Take advantage of this training to discuss materials covered in the modules with your student. It’s a nice opportunity for you to discuss the importance of integrity in science, plagiarism, issues related to data acquisition and ownership, the publication process, mentor and trainee responsibility, etc... Given that this training is probably designed more for graduate students, some of the materials covered are a bit complex for undergraduates (e.g., the peer review process), so be available to discuss these issues with them.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

The SARI@PSU website: <http://www.research.psu.edu/training/sari>. FAQs, announcements, newsletters, documents, links.