



Teaching the Responsible Conduct of Research

Certificate Program

The National Center for Professional and Research Ethics (NCPRE) offers certification for advanced graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and faculty in Teaching the Responsible Conduct of Research (TRCR). Participants commit to planning and launching some form of RCR instruction at their institutions, whether this is for-credit courses or workshops.

Background

Inculcating the knowledge and practice of the responsible conduct of research is a central part of our educational institutions' missions. Early career pressures often discourage emerging professionals from pursuing interests in RCR. At the same time, federal agencies are increasingly signaling that simply requiring online compliance and regulatory instruction is not sufficient and that in-person instruction is required or strongly recommended. Minimal compliance is not sufficient.

The Teaching RCR Certificate Program features guided experiential learning in how to develop and lead high quality Responsible Conduct of Research workshops and courses. Under the guidance of nationally-recognized faculty experts on RCR from Illinois and Indiana, participants will acquire a distinguishing credential in an environment where RCR is increasingly emphasized and valued.

Elements of the Program

- (a) NCPRE and interested universities will work together initially to establish expectations and confirm logistics, and arrange preparatory work for the cohort of students.
- (b) TRCR faculty can optionally provide an intensive two-day face-to-face workshop focused on RCR content, pedagogy and assessment techniques. Participants depart the workshop with a set of principles and case models for program design as well as resources for assessment of their own future students and events. If this workshop is not held in person, it can be held on line.
- (c) Participants will register for a two-part program taking place over two successive semesters.
- (d) During the first semester, participants study RCR topics and pedagogy to develop instructional events, such as workshops, seminars, or courses.
- (e) Working groups in the cohort will interact in areas of interest through online collaboration tools through both semesters of the program.
- (f) TRCR faculty will consult with participants and provide feedback on developing projects through virtual meetings during both semesters.
- (g) During the second semester, participants will submit their materials for review and pilot their instructional activities at their home institutions (with on-site supervision from the home institution's collaborating faculty, if any are participating), and with TRCR faculty oversight.
- (h) Cohort participants will also present a course portfolio including proposals to cohort peers for review.





Upon satisfactory completion of the requirements, participants are awarded the TRCR certificate from the University of Illinois.

We form working groups within the cohort of those within similar disciplines so that participants gain both a wide perspective on the RCR field and a focus on the issues in their disciplines. Where feasible given home campus conditions, the RCR offerings designed and implemented by program participants will be disciplinarily-focused and based in relevant departments (e.g., chemistry or political science, rather than the graduate school at large).

Cost

- (a) Travel and expenses plus fees for participants to attend an optional initial in-person workshop at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, or fees to NCPRE for a workshop at the participants' own institution;
- (b) Fees for the program;
- (c) Travel and expenses for participants to attend a final in-person meeting to present portfolios at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (this second in-person meeting can be arranged to take place online if necessary);
- (d) Course materials (books, case study packets) and home-campus RCR offering support.

Faculty

The program is led by C. K. Gunsalus, director of NCPRE, with the participation of Kenneth D. Pimple, Head and Staff, TeachRCR Services; and NCPRE core team members Gene Amberg, Nicholas Burbules and Sylvie Khan.

Each university sending participants to the cohort will be offered the opportunity to designate one or more faculty members who will participate and interact with home campus participants.

Materials will be curated by the NCPRE digital library team and collaboration space made available on Ethics CORE, the national online ethics resource center.

Enrollment

Email for information on enrollment: ncprenews@mx.illinois.edu

