

Nov 19, 2009 Draft by Mary Inman

Effective Jan 10, 2010, the National Science Foundation (NSF) will ask Hope to be accountable (show formal plans) in the way that NSF funded faculty teach responsible conduct in research to workers in their labs. NSF applicants will need a plan in place. The webinar I attended today with Tracey Nally said that computer-based ethics training (as the sole training) was not sufficient for NSF-supported researchers, as ethical issues have ambiguity and need face-to-face dialogue. Given the diversity of research and related ethical issues, NSF is leaving it up to the institution to create a plan of “proof” of ethics training to NSF funded students and post-docs.

I'm offering this plan (share it with other departments if it helps them).

Based on previous discussions with the psychology faculty and chair, **I suggest the following tentative plan for future psychology researchers who intend to do research with NSF-supported research.** NSF said if your research students are using NSF-funded equipment, they need to be trained (everyone in your lab needs to follow the school's plan, which may differ by department or division).

NSF funded Psychology Hope faculty will do the following to educate their student researchers in their lab:

1. Everyone takes the Social and Behavioral CITI tutorials & passes
2. If the research is biomedically related, they take and pass the biomedical CITI tutorials too.
3. Faculty and students read Chapter 3 (Ethics in Research) in John Shaughnessy's Research Methods book, which highlights other standards (e.g., avoiding plagiarism, no fabrication or falsification of data, etc.) given by the American Psychological Association.
4. Faculty will conduct a 1-hour discussion about the ethically related topics that pertain to the procedures of that given semester in that lab. Across-lab ethics discussions are welcome too. Different labs are welcome to raise relevant ethical challenges and offer solutions that promote research and protect participants.
5. At the beginning of school year, the Psychology Department will spend a portion of the first department meeting of the year covering the following topics:
 - a. Responsibilities of being an ethical research mentor to students
 - b. Appropriate conduct when serving as a peer reviewer for grant proposals
6. Psychology faculty will use the Hope HSRB and IACUC as appropriate when submitting proposals involving research with human subjects and animal subjects, respectively.

Discussions should be tailored to the topic. For example, faculty who are supervising data collection discuss issues of data falsification (pressures and perils), the kinds of risk in research (Shaughnessy's book), why privacy is important, and deception in research. Those co-authoring with students could discuss authorship issues and plagiarism.

Resources for faculty include: www.hope.edu/admin/hsrb Click “Related Links” on the left to find HIPAA requirements, Family Privacy Act, the Belmont Report, Federal Code of Regulations and more. Office of Research Integrity’s site is <http://ori.dhhs.gov>. Responsible Conduct of Research Education site is <http://ori.dhhs.gov/education>. Tracey may have more sources too.

7. The faculty member provides documentation that all steps occurred (certificates, signatures from students after face-to-face training) and sends that confirmation to Tracey Nally who is Hope’s officer that confirms this training.

[Again, these steps are required of people with NSF-supported research proposals submitted January 10, 2010 or after]

Thanks. Know that all our psychology undergraduate majors are educated about ethical issues in Research Methods, Social Psychology, Advanced Research, and perhaps other classes. Furthermore, our non-NSF funded CITI-certified psychology faculty often require their individual students to have completed all or some of the CITI tutorials. In short, our department can identify active teaching of ethics to all our majors.