Plan for Training in the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)

**Format.** For NIH sponsored career development and training grants, all students regardless of career level, are offered and must complete a minimum of eight hours of face-to-face training in RCR.

**Audience.** All postdoctoral scholars, regardless of sponsorship, are required to complete eight hours of training in RCR during their first year at ECU. The **Postdoc RCR Series** is offered twice annually (spring and fall semesters). Instructed by faculty and staff, the course is designed primarily for postdoctoral scholars, but is open to any ECU student, faculty, or staff member at any career stage wishing to complete RCR training requirements for NIH career development and training awards. The format consists of a combination of didactic method augmented by discussion of reading assignments, and case study review and discussion.

**RCR Core Content Areas**. Areas denoted by an asterisk are required areas of training but must be augmented with at least one elective to achieve the minimum total of 8 hours of face-to-face training.

\*Research Misconduct

\*Data Acquisition, Management, Sharing and Ownership

\*Publication Practices and Responsible Authorship

\*Mentor/Mentee Relationships

\*Peer Review

\*Collaborative Science

\*Risk Mitigation in Research Facilities

**RCR Electives.** The following electives are offered: Conflicts of Interest, Research Involving Human Subjects and Materials, Research Involving Vertebrate Animals, Difficult Conversations, Intellectual Property and Commercialization, Export Controls and Customs.

**HUMS/NURS 7004** is a graduate level semester-long research ethics course open to master’s degree students but required of doctoral students if not completed at the master’s degree level. The course is offered by the Brody School of Medicine Bioethics Department and consists of case studies, readings, policy review, assignments, and discussions with guest faculty to examine areas of ethical concern for researchers. Areas include scientific misconduct, conflict of interest, abusive mentoring, improper authorship practices, and protection of human participants, animal subjects of research, and others.

Brody School of Medicine also offers a series of seminars - **Research Resources 101**- that introduces faculty members to various resources, programs, tips and tools to help advance their research. This is a monthly event that introduces new and seasoned researchers to resources and facilities in the Brody School of Medicine. Many topics covered touch on core areas of RCR.

**Faculty Participation.** Faculty members teach RCR course content and lead the live discussions. Faculty PIs are encouraged to meet specific needs within their research group by conducting in-house exploration of the intricacies of a topic through discussions, personal research projects, and other avenues of mentoring.

**Duration and Frequency of Instruction**

Postdoc RCR Series: Weekly series of one-hour sessions in October/November and February/March for a total of 9 contact hours each.

GRAD HUMS/NURS 7004 Course: Two 2-credit semester courses of approximately 25 contact hours, offered twice a year

In accordance with federal agency requirements for recurring instruction, the University requires researchers to repeat full RCR training every four years.

**Monitoring**. Course completion and grades are an official institutional record. For the RCR Seminar Series, the Office of Research Integrity and Compliance provides a Certificate of Completion for completing the 8-hour NIH requirement or 4-hour NSF requirement.