

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: NSF – Required Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Training Expansion**

**Q1. The CITI RCR learner groups, i.e., medical, social behavioral, research administration, do not fit the type of research I am doing. Which learner group do I select?**

A1. The learner group distinctions in CITI are primarily for human subject and animal research, as this distinction is used for other training modules administered through the CITI platform. Each RCR learner group covers the basic principles of the responsible and ethical conduct of research with nearly the same modules. Please select the closest related group to your type of research.

Please note that we currently have a pending update with CITI that will remove this distinction for RCR given their course similarity. This will not impact those who have already completed this requirement or in progress.

**Q2. Will previously completed RCR training from more than 4 years ago be accepted to satisfy the NSF RCR training requirement?**

A2. Per the NSF requirements, RCR training is required to be completed on a continuing basis. Drexel University requires completion of RCR training at least every 4 years to meet the NSF requirements as well as to align with the training requirements of the NIH and other funding sources.

**Q3. I completed CITI RCR training at a different institution. How can I share my previous training records to document completion of the training?**

A3. Please follow the CITI RCR instructions guide for instructions on how to link a previous CITI account with Drexel University. Alternatively, you may email a copy of your training certificate to Marisa Corbett at mjc535@drexel.edu.

**Q4. I completed RCR training outside of the CITI platform, e.g., via an in-person course or other online training. Does this training satisfy the RCR training requirement?**

A4. For consideration of an exception to the CITI RCR training, please email documentation of the previously completed to Marisa Corbett at mjc535@drexel.edu. The training will be reviewed to determine if the RCR training requirements were satisfied.

**Q5. There are many training modules listed under Drexel’s CITI platform, do I need to complete all of the listed trainings?**

A5. For the purpose of meeting the NSF RCR training requirements, you only need to complete the “Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Courses”. Other training may be required depending on the type of research you are completing, e.g. human subjects research or lab animal research. Researchers are encouraged to utilize all available CITI courses as training resources.

**Q6. How do the NSF and NIH training requirements differ?**

A6. While the NSF RCR training requirement can be satisfied with online CITI platform courses, the NIH requires that RCR training must include at least 8 hours of “live” instruction which is not satisfied by online courses. Drexel University’s “live” instruction as part of the course syllabus requires the same CITI RCR training as the training noted in this document.

In addition, NSF requires that all faulty and research personnel supported by NSF who conduct research complete RCR training. The NIH RCR training policy applies to individuals receiving support for specific NIH training grants falling under some D, F, K, R, T and U awards.

**Q7. If I completed the CITI RCR training prior to the updated Drexel CITI modules, do I need to repeat the CITI RCR training?**

A7. No, previously completed CITI RCR training will be accepted to satisfy the NSF RCR training requirement if completed and a certificate available within the previous 4 years. The updated RCR modules are available in the CITI platform for individuals who wish to complete specific modules that were not previously available.

**Q8. What if I have questions about the training requirements, accessing CITI training, or need to request approval of alternate RCR training?**

A8. If you have questions about the RCR training requirements or wish to request approval of alternate RCR training, outside of the CITI platform, please contact Marisa Corbett at mjc535@drexel.edu or Cassandra Myers at cjm523@drexel.edu.