

Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research (RECR)

Integrity is foundational to our research, scholarship, creative work, and core identity as MSU Spartans. It is not only required by rules (including federal, state, research sponsors, and MSU's research and training policies), integrity is essential for our research to have legitimacy and impact. Research integrity is so important to our development as scholars and creators that the Graduate School has developed minimum education requirements for all graduate students regarding the Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research (RECR for short). RECR training is also a federal requirement for all graduate students and completion of the training must be tracked.

[The Graduate School's RECR education program](#) consists of two parts (a) basic or foundational education (Years One and Two, for all Master's and Ph.D. students), and (b) annual refresher education (Years three and beyond, for Ph.D. students only). Details are provided below.

The basic education program consists of the following:

1. Four (4) specified online CITI (Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative) training modules. (To be completed by the end of the student's first year).
2. A minimum of 6 hours of face-to-face, discussion-based education. (To be completed by the time of graduation for master's students and prior to completing the comprehensive examination and entering candidate status for doctoral students). Each department or college has developed a RECR plan including when and how to satisfy the discussion-based education hours. Please review this plan (found in your graduate handbook) and verify with your Graduate Program Director. Options may include:
 - a. Completing workshops offered by The Graduate School (most count for 1.5 hours each),
 - b. Completing workshops offered by your academic unit,
 - c. Completing approved coursework covering RECR relevant content (see topical content list) and/or,
 - d. Participating in group discussions with an advisor or facilitator. In such cases, the individual leading the discussion must complete and submit a spreadsheet for inclusion into Ability (and transfer to the Track RCR page in SIS). The directions for this can be found here, Academic Unit Administrator Access and Responsibilities (sharepoint.com).

For students entering graduate school in FS2022 or later, one-on-one discussions with a faculty mentor or advisor can NO LONGER be used to fulfill the 6 hours of discussion-based education.

3. Three (3) additional on-line CITI modules for Master's Plan A and Doctoral students. These 3 additional CITI modules can be chosen from the supplemental modules listed in CITI. This list will not be visible on a student's CITI page until the first four required modules have been completed. (To be completed by the end of the student's second year). These must be completed in Year Two, not before, in order to count toward the basic education requirements.

In addition to the basic education requirements, all doctoral and graduate professional students must complete 3 hours per year of annual refresher education. This requirement can be met in the following ways:

1. Completing additional CITI modules not previously used to fulfill the basic education requirements. These would be from the supplemental modules listed in CITI. Each module counts as 45 min,
2. Completing additional virtual workshops from the Graduate School not previously used to fulfill the basic education requirements,
3. Participating in designated RECR activities in an academic unit,
4. Holding one-on-one or group discussions with one's advisor, and/or
5. Other activities across campus that cover key RECR topics (e.g., mentoring workshops)

Below are helpful summaries of the requirements based on the program:

Master's plan B (including online) and grad professional (including medical students)

CITI Modules Year 1

- Introduction to the Responsible Conduct of Research
- Authorship
- Plagiarism
- Research Misconduct

6 hours discussion-based education (complete before graduation)

Master's Plan A students

CITI Modules Year 1

- Introduction to the Responsible Conduct of Research
- Authorship
- Plagiarism
- Research Misconduct

6 hours discussion-based education (complete before graduation)

CITI Modules Year 2

Complete 3 of 6 possible RECR Basic modules:

- Collaborative Research
- Conflicts of Interest
- Data Management
- Mentoring
- Peer Review
- Financial Responsibility

Doctoral students

CITI Modules Year 1

- Introduction to the Responsible Conduct of Research
- Authorship
- Plagiarism
- Research Misconduct

6 hours discussion-based education (complete before finishing comprehensive examination and entering candidacy status, doctoral students starting in Fall 2020 or later)

CITI Modules Year 2

Complete 3 of 6 possible RECR Basic modules:

- Collaborative Research
- Conflicts of Interest
- Data Management
- Mentoring
- Peer Review
- Financial Responsibility

Year 3 forward

3 hours of annual refresher education

- CITI modules not previously taken to fulfill Year 1 or 2 or another refresher year's requirements
- Department/College Workshops, brown-bag luncheons, group discussions that cover RECR related topics
- Graduate School RECR workshops not previously taken
- One-on-one discussions between the student and their advisor
- Other RECR related courses (non-CITI modules, Academic courses, etc.)