

Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)

Scholarship and Research Integrity (SARI)

Integrity training: Aug 2019

Dept. of Geosciences,
Penn State University

1. Why is research ethics and responsible conduct even an issue we need to discuss?

What are some of the drivers for unethical behavior (both spectacular and unspectacular)?

2. Your advisor approaches you and asks you to send him/her your recently collected data from a set of recent experiments. These are high-profile results and could result in an important first-authored paper for you. S/he wants to plot the data and use them in a talk (you will be properly credited for the work). S/he explains that this will advertise your work, and the work of the research group, and will not preempt your ability to get credit or publish the work. You have mixed feelings - is this appropriate?

What if it is a proposal?

What if it is a synthesis paper?

3. You're a member of a field party, a group you've worked with before. There is a new member, who also happens to be the only female on the team. The PI mentions, half jokingly, that the new member should get up early and make sure the coffee is warm when others get up. What do you think about this situation? What should you do?

4. You have just finished a suite of geochemical analyses of sediment cores that provide key new insights into the sources of carbon and their timing relative to the PETM. This is potentially landmark stuff – a “slam dunk” as a *Nature* article. In analyzing and plotting your data, you realize that one of the data sets from a key sample may be in error, and this would change the interpretation. But you are like 95% sure that it’s OK. Also, there is another group that is barking up the same tree, and you think they might be getting close to writing up their results. Re-running the sample would require ~2 months. What do you do?

5. You are writing a manuscript for Earth and Planetary Science Letters. It is the third chapter of your PhD thesis. The introduction and first two figures are essentially the same as in Chapter 2 – after all, it’s the same field site and fundamental scientific question. You *could* re-write the entire intro and redraft new figures, but that sure seems like you’d just be making work for yourself. If you “recycle” parts of the text and figures, is that OK? Is it plagiarism? I mean, you were the one who wrote it the first time, right?

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1. Online training required by Penn State

Go to <https://www.research.psu.edu/education/citi>

Choose Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training

2. One hour discussion during new student orientation
3. Two hours of discussion during Geosc 500 – Issues in Geosciences
4. Two hours of discussion through specialized research groups

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**Department of Geosciences
Scholarship and Research Integrity**

Student: _____

Penn State requires first-year graduate students to participate in online training provided by the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI), by means of Penn State's institutional subscription. Graduate students at Penn State must also engage in a total of five hours of discipline-specific, discussion-based training.

Geoscience graduate students matriculating January 2009 or later must use the table below to indicate completion of RCR, with each element verified by signature of the supervising instructor. Students must attach a certificate of completion of online training from CITI.

Activity	Date	Supervising Instructor Signature
CITI on-line training Please attach original certificate		
Discussion-based Training (5 hours)		
New-Student Orientation 1 hour		
Issues Course 2 hours		
Subdisciplinary Program 2 hours		
_____ Name of activity, group or course		

I certify _____ has completed training in the responsible conduct of research and has fulfilled the Penn State SARI requirements.

Signature of Graduate Program Officer

Date