



The Scholarship and Research Integrity (SARI) program was launched in fall 2009 to provide graduate students with opportunities to identify, examine, and discuss ethical issues relevant to their disciplines. Thousands of students have participated in the program, and ultimately every student receiving a master's or doctoral degree from Penn State will have participated in this training. We are proud that Penn State is leading the way in ensuring that all graduate students at this institution will not only become accomplished scholars and researchers, but will also be prepared to conduct their professional lives with integrity and responsibility.

All scholars, from graduate students to senior investigators, confront ethical issues in their professions. While advances in technology and the ability to interact with colleagues across the globe have opened up vast opportunities for advancement, they have also created new challenges for the responsible conduct of research and scholarship. The issues that require attention are constantly changing. Each year, thousands of Penn State investigators conduct research and scholarly activities with integrity that would withstand the highest levels of scrutiny. Unfortunately, however, each year some Penn State personnel are involved in research misconduct allegations, inquiries, and investigations. Since 2002, Penn State's Office for Research Protections has received 27 allegations of research misconduct, leading to 14 cases of confirmed misconduct. Misconduct allegations have involved research personnel of every rank, including full, associate, and assistant professors, research assistants and graduate students. Four misconduct findings were serious enough to lead to recommendations of dismissal from the university.

While some cases of misconduct arise from deliberate, unethical behavior, many cases involve situations where the responsible or ethical course of action was not clear to the investigator. Advance discussion of core principles and possible scenarios can help inform choices frequently made under pressure, helping to eliminate poor decisions. Penn State recognizes that we have a unique opportunity—and a responsibility—to address these issues in a proactive and deliberate manner. **Therefore, the SARI program has been expanded to include the approximately 300 scholars and researchers who join Penn State annually as full-time faculty. To be fully comprehensive, the SARI@PSU program is now required for postdoctoral fellows and undergraduate researchers, in addition to graduate students and new faculty.** SARI@PSU program resources are also available (though not required or monitored) for other PSU personnel. Campuses, colleges, and departments are encouraged to extend the SARI@PSU program requirement to senior faculty and others involved in research or scholarly activities, such as research technicians or assistants.

The SARI@PSU program is composed of two parts: an online course, and an interactive, discussion-based component. SARI program content is both interdisciplinary and discipline-specific, designed to address common issues in research integrity as well as issues unique to various areas of research and scholarship. The online portion (Part 1) provides a common language and understanding of the history and principles of the responsible conduct of research, while the discussion-based component (Part 2) provides an opportunity for in-depth exploration of important issues unique to each field of study. This basic structure can be adapted to create an effective program for scholars at different stages of their careers, from undergraduate researchers, to graduate students and junior faculty, to senior faculty members with years of experience. Participation by faculty and students alike will help foster a rich environment for the discussion and practice of scholarly integrity.

## SARI @ PSU Requirements

Targeted group	Part 1: Online course (CITI)	Part 2: Discussion-based activities	Tracking mechanism
Undergraduate researchers	yes	no	Faculty advisor
Graduate students	yes	5 hours before graduation	Graduate program (or college) tracks; reports to ORP annually
Postdoctoral fellows	yes	no	Faculty advisor
New full-time faculty	optional	2 hours, plus 1 hour continuing education requirement every three years	ORP, in collaboration with faculty self-reporting and enforcement by colleges

SARI@PSU will be implemented as follows:

- Undergraduate researchers, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows:** All faculty at PSU will be notified that any undergraduate researchers or postdoctoral fellows under their supervision must complete a CITI online training course during their first year of research. Undergraduate students who are performing research that may be included in, or lead to, a publication or other research report, should participate in SARI@PSU. Advisors should determine if SARI requirements are appropriate for their students, and monitor participation by their students and fellows. New graduate students' participation in required SARI program activities will be monitored through previously established mechanisms.
- New full-time faculty:** All new PSU full-time faculty will be notified of the SARI@PSU program during faculty orientations, and through a letter from ORP. They will have 12 months from date of hire to complete the SARI@PSU requirement, which consists of two hours of RCR educational activities. This requirement may be met through the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) online course, two hours of discussion-based activity, or a combination of activities. Individuals completing CITI training for IRB purposes will have met the SARI@PSU requirement. Eligible discussion-based activities include attending (or teaching) workshops or seminars focusing on the responsible conduct of research or equivalent professional ethics-related content. Workshops may include those offered by departments and colleges, ORP or other Penn State units, or through attendance at a similar activity at another institution or professional conference. SARI@PSU participation should be self-reported by faculty to ORP via an online tracking form. ORP will maintain a database of completed SARI@PSU requirements, and will share participation records annually with campus administrators, college deans and department heads, who will encourage participation in the SARI program.
- Continuing education requirement:** Every three years (by the 48<sup>th</sup> month of employment at PSU, and every three years after that), faculty must report one hour of RCR continuing education activity. Continuing education requirements can be met by any of the SARI@PSU activities described above, or by completing an online "refresher course" offered by CITI. Completion of continuing education activities will be self-reported to ORP via an online tracking form. ORP will share participation records annually with campus administrators, college deans and department heads, who will encourage participation in the SARI program.
- SARI@PSU Portal:** The SARI@PSU website (<http://www.research.psu.edu/training/sari>) provides information about the program, access to CITI training, and forms for reporting participation and contacting SARI administrators.