The Scholarship and Research Integrity at PSU (SARI@PSU) program was launched in fall 2009 to provide Penn State researchers at all career stages with opportunities to identify, examine, and discuss ethical issues relevant to their disciplines.

All scholars (whether undergraduate researchers, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, research associates, or senior investigators) confront ethical issues in their professions. Each year, thousands of Penn State investigators and research teams 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. Advance discussion of core principles and possible scenarios can help inform choices frequently made under pressure, helping to eliminate poor decisions. As a research institution, Penn State has a unique opportunity—and a responsibility—to address these issues in a proactive and deliberate manner.

The SARI@PSU program encompasses content that is both interdisciplinary and discipline-specific, and is composed of two parts: an online course, and an interactive, discussion-based component. The online portion (Part 1), offered through the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative at the University of Miami (CITI Program), provides a common language and understanding of the history and principles of the responsible conduct of research. 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 career stages: from undergraduate researchers, to graduate students and junior faculty, to senior scholars with years of experience. Participation by faculty and students alike will help foster a rich environment for the discussion and practice of scholarly integrity. The SARI@PSU requirements are summarized below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Targeted group</th>
<th>Part 1: Online course (CITI)</th>
<th>Part 2: Discussion-based activities</th>
<th>Tracking mechanism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate researchers</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>optional</td>
<td>Faculty advisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate students</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>5 hours before graduation</td>
<td>Graduate program (or college) tracks; reports to ORP annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postdoctoral fellows</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>optional</td>
<td>Faculty advisor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New full-time faculty</td>
<td>optional</td>
<td>2 hours, plus 1 hour continuing education requirement every three years</td>
<td>ORP, in collaboration with faculty self-reporting and enforcement by colleges</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
More details:

- **Undergraduate researchers, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows:** Faculty at PSU should ensure that undergraduate researchers and postdoctoral fellows under their supervision complete a CITI Program online 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. Graduate students’ participation in required SARI program activities will be monitored through established departmental or graduate program mechanisms.

- **New full-time faculty:** All new PSU full-time faculty 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 CITI Program online course, two hours of discussion-based activities, or a combination of activities. CITI training for IRB purposes does fulfill the SARI@PSU requirement. Eligible discussion-based activities include participation in workshops focusing on the responsible conduct of research or equivalent professional ethics-related content. Workshops may include those offered by Penn State units, or by another institution or professional conference. SARI@PSU participation should be self-reported to ORP via the SARI@PSU online portal. SARI@PSU participation records will be shared annually with campus administrators, college deans, and department heads.

- **Continuing education requirement:** Every three years (by the 48th month of employment at PSU, and every three years after that), faculty must report one hour of SARI@PSU continuing education activities. These requirements can be met by any of the SARI@PSU activities described above, or by completing an online “refresher course” offered by the CITI Program.

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**CITI PROGRAM**

Access CITI Program courses via [citi.psu.edu](http://citi.psu.edu) using your Penn State Access Account credentials.

Answer the curriculum selection questions to enroll in either the responsible conduct of research (RCR) course or one of the human subjects research (IRB) courses. Graduate students should check with their program to select the appropriate course. See the note below regarding IRB courses.

More details about enrollment can be found at the SARI@PSU Resource Portal: [www.research.psu.edu/education/sari/faculty](http://www.research.psu.edu/education/sari/faculty)

You may log out and return as often as you like to complete the course.

When you have completed the course (with 80% or higher quiz scores), you will receive a link to your completion report.

**SPECIAL NOTE for users who also need training for IRB approval:** Only certain CITI Program courses are accepted for IRB purposes (but IRB training may usually be used to fulfill SARI@PSU requirements). To avoid taking more than one course, please check with your IRB coordinator if you have questions.

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**The Office for Research Protections**

SARI@PSU was initiated by Penn State’s Office of the Vice President for Research and the Graduate School, and is administered by the Education Program in the Office for Research Protections (ORP). ORP provides support to the research community through educational and administrative services, including the administration of compliance committees, assistance with protocol preparation and review, and offering workshops and training in the responsible conduct of research. The ORP is located in Innovation Park, at 205 The 330 Building. More information can be found at [www.research.psu.edu/orp](http://www.research.psu.edu/orp).

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**SARI@PSU Resource Portal**

The SARI@PSU website provides information about the program, access to CITI Program online courses, and forms for reporting participation and contacting SARI administrators.

[www.research.psu.edu/training/sari](http://www.research.psu.edu/training/sari)

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Questions? We’re happy to help! [sari@psu.edu](mailto:sari@psu.edu)