

Responsible Conduct of Research Seminars

Course Catalog

“Collaborations and Team Science”

As our global economy and awareness expands, conducting research in tandem with scientists on a nation and worldwide theater is gaining popularity and importance. Appreciating benefits of such corroboration is one thing; wading the ins and outs to initiate and maintain success is another. This seminar seeks as in introduction to gain familiarity with ways to enhance good collaborative research, understand institutional processes involved in collaborative research, and identify the pitfalls that may occur in collaborative research, resources available to effectively manage collaborative research, and writing large science proposals that involve multiple universities (public/private) and across state lines.

“Conflict of Commitment and Financial Conflict of Interest”

This workshop offers information on the movement within the academic community toward a consistent manner of addressing financial conflicts of interest and conflict of commitment, while raising consciousness regarding this topic to include:

- Defining Conflict of Interest/Conflict of Commitment; Central policies/procedures
- Identifying and managing conflicts of interest; Discussion of real life situation
- Types of conflicts encountered by researchers and institutions
- Scope of reporting responsibilities
- Requirements for reporting of outside activities
- Case studies

“Responsible Authorship and Publication Practices”

Responsible authorship/publication practices are the activities of preparing research findings for dissemination in a manner that ensures the integrity of the research process. This session will highlight:

- Authors' awareness of common mistakes and dilemmas faced in preparing research proposals and manuscripts.
- Provide authors strategies to avoid common mistakes and dilemmas in preparing research proposals and manuscripts.

“Research Misconduct”

Research misconduct is defined as fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results. The university and federal requirements for judgment of research misconduct will be addressed during the seminar, as well as, discussion of case studies that demonstrate how to apply the definition of misconduct to actual scenarios.

“A Proper Research Record: How and Why”

This session will explore ethical principles and decisions related to scientific data acquisition, data recording and management and retention. The topic covers definitions for what constitutes data, procedures for maintaining the confidentiality and integrity of data, and proper methods for keeping records and processing and analyzing data.

“Ownership of Results in Research”

Data ownership refers to both the possession of and responsibility for information. There are many different guidelines to which researchers must adhere when determining ownership and sharing of their data. This session will explore who ‘owns’ data as well as the legal ramifications for intellectual property, patent and copyright laws. Ownership rights to include raw data and results will be dependent upon who is sponsoring the research, as examples will be shared to illustrate possible outcomes.

Intellectual Property and Copyrights

The University of South Alabama Office of Technology Transfer (OTT) obtains and manages patents, copyrights, and trademarks derived from the University’s academic research enterprise. OTT creates relationships with industry to develop, protect, transfer and commercialize intellectual property resulting from the University’s research. This topic covers how intellectual property is handled in the academic arena , what a PI needs to know about what they own, what they can do with it and what responsibilities are of the inventor.

Financial Management and Responsibility

There are multiple factors within the regulatory landscape that are concerned with the management of project funding. Just as with the conduct of research, there are externally-imposed requirements on the individual researcher and on the institution related to the management of research funds. The objectives of good research management are twofold: (i) to make best use of available funds to achieve research outcomes (ii) to avoid problems of fraud, waste and abuse of sponsor support. Additionally, risk should be minimized so that requirements associated with the use of federal dollars do not create negative exposure for the institution and its academic and research communities.