The Office of Graduate Education is responsible for developing and delivering Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training to all incoming first year graduate trainees in the Biological and Biomedical Sciences Program (BBSP).

**Format**: The RCR sessions are incorporated into the curriculum of a First Year Group (FYG) professional development course that is mandatory for BBSP students. Each class has the following elements:

* Reading: Trainees are asked to do background reading before each RCR session. Materials for reading can include case studies, institutional policies, recent news articles, or other scholarly articles relevant to the topic.
* Instruction & Discussion: trainees meet in their FYG small groups for an hour and a half lesson and discussion of the topic. These sessions are facilitated by faculty members from BBSP member PhD programs who are involved in the FYG course.

**Faculty Participation**: Each BBSP FYG is led by one primary First Year Group Leader and several faculty co-mentors who interact with the students and lead professional development activities throughout the first year. These faculty serve as the RCR discussion facilitators for the students in their FYG course.

**Subject Matter**: The curriculum covers seven content areas aimed at beginning scientists. The topic areas and guest speakers are listed below

1. Mentor+ Mentee responsibilities
2. Authorship
3. Peer Review
4. Misconduct + Whistleblowing
5. Conflict of Interest
6. Rigor + Reproducibility
7. Animal + Human Subject/Specimen research

**Duration of Instruction**: Each session is 1.5 hours for a total of 10.5 contact hours.

**Frequency of Instruction**: The RCR sessions are incorporated into the curriculum of a First Year Group (FYG) professional development course that is mandatory for BBSP students. The FYG class meets for 1.5 hours once a week in the fall and spring semester of the first year. 7 of the FYG classes are dedicated to the RCR curriculum outlined above: 4 sessions fall semester, 3 in the spring. Each session is separated in time from the other sessions, and the topics are chosen to be relevant to the transition into graduate school or other aspects of the FYG course that are happening. For example, the first RCR training topic is Mentor + Mentee Relationships since that is a way to frame the graduate student rotation and mentor selection process. The sessions on Authorship and on Misconduct (which both include Plagiarism) happen concurrently with the introduction of a scientific writing block in the FYG course.