NSF changed proposal requirements from Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) focused on students supported on a grant to Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research (RECR), a broader approach covering all grant personnel.

This is intended to highlight the importance of excellence and public trust in science and engineering.

NSF’s current requirements for RECR address four main areas, as outlined on the right.

Text and links for each of these can be found here: Responsible and Ethical Conduct of Research (RECR) | NSF - National Science Foundation
Because Predominantly Undergraduate Institutions may have less support for administrative services, we wanted to:

- review the current requirements,
- examine questions or issues that PUls may experience with these requirements, and
- suggest possible solutions.
Research security training. Organizations provide training to relevant personnel on research security threat awareness and identification, and conduct tailored training in the event of a research security incident.

Export control training, organizations conducting R&D subject to export control restrictions provide training to relevant personnel on requirements and processes for reviewing foreign sponsors, collaborators and partnerships, and for ensuring compliance with Federal export control requirements and restricted entities lists.

NSF has soft launched their training modules at https://new.nsf.gov/research-security/training
What are some questions or issues that PUls (and others) may have about implementing these requirements?

• competing faculty priorities
• lack of mandatory training unless mandated by the sponsor
• faculty burn out, which impacts both how much people are willing to engage and think critically during those trainings, as well as what they retain
• How to justify resourcing
What are some possible solutions that could help PUls?

- Partner with another larger institution to offer training
- Identify tools to communicate a real return on investment for time/cost to implement
- Consistent requirements from all funding agencies
- Clear communication from federal sponsors to explain additional requirements to faculty
- Reasonable timelines for implementing changes/updating and refreshing materials
Who manages RECR at our institutions?

• Typically, a research compliance position
• For smaller institutions, the sponsored programs director may be responsible, perhaps with support from a training specialist, IT systems staff, or other
• How do smaller institutions justify positions for these responsibilities?