



20 de julio de 2010

DECANOS ACADÉMICOS, DIRECTORES Y
COORDINADORES DE PROGRAMAS GRADUADOS
UPRM

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EXPERIENCIA EN ETICA DE INVESTIGACION PARA LOS ESTUDIANTES
GRADUADOS

En la reunión del Consejo Graduado celebrada el 29 de septiembre de 2009, se estableció un Comité ad hoc que analizaría los posibles requisitos para que los estudiantes graduados obtengan una experiencia en ética. Dicho comité estaba formado por un representante de cada facultad y miembros del Centro de Ética.

El jueves, 22 de abril de 2010 el Consejo Graduado celebró una reunión donde el comité antes mencionado discutió un informe con sus recomendaciones. La idea original fue utilizar la Oficina de Estudios Graduados como un posible canal para centralizar la implantación de la experiencia de ética para los estudiantes graduados. Sin embargo, luego de una amplia discusión el Consejo Graduado recomendó mediante una moción, que el informe presentado por el Comité ad hoc se dirija a los departamentos y allí sea evaluado y tomen individualmente la acción correspondiente.

Siguiendo la recomendación del Consejo Graduado, les incluyo copia del informe antes mencionado.

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	Universidad de Puerto Rico Recinto Universitario de Mayagüez	
	Departamento de Humanidades	

To: Dr. Anand Sharma, Director, Graduate Studies, UPRM

From: Dr. Dana L. Collins, Coordinator
Ad hoc Committee on Ethics Requirement for Graduate Students

CC: Dr. Halley Sánchez, Department of Humanities
Dr. Jorge Ferrer, Department of Humanities
Dr. Efraín O'Neill, Department of Electrical Engineering
Dr. Maribel Acosta Lugo, Graduate Representative, Department of Hispanic Studies
Dr. Nilda Aponte, Graduate School Representative, Department of Marine Sciences
Dr. Teodoro Ruíz, Graduate School Representative, College of Agricultural Sciences
Dr. Lourdes Rosario, Graduate School Representative, College of Engineering
Dr. Rosario Ortiz, Graduate School Representative, College of Business Administration

*Discussed at
the Graduate
Council Meeting
on April 22, 2010*

Date: 12 April 2010

Subject: Final Report: Ethics Requirement for Graduate Students

The Ad hoc Committee for developing an Ethics or Responsible Conduct in Research (RCR) requirement for UPRM Graduate Students had four meetings (22 October 2009, 7 December 2009, 1 February 2010, 22 February 2010). The development of this requirement is in response to some concerns on academic integrity and RCR procedures by members of the Departments with graduate programs, members of the Graduate Council, as well as how to attend to the new requirement on RCR requirement that is now in effect by the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Health. This RCR requirement requires that institutions with students (undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral) who are working on projects funded by NSF or NIH certify that these students will receive or have received training in Responsible Conduct in Research.

The committee considered various aspects and impacts of an Ethics requirement on the programs of the graduate students. Among the items that had to be considered were:

- the amount of time needed to fulfill the proposed requirement
- the manner in which the proposed requirement would be met
- if the proposed requisite conflicted with any programs or existing Graduate School Requirements
- if the proposed requirement would be credit or non-credit
- the prospective timeline for fulfilling the proposed RCR requirement

The following is the proposal that was agreed upon in the final meeting of 22 February 2010.

Beginning August 2010:

An eight (8) hour seminar/workshop series on Responsible Conduct in Research. It consists of:

Part A: 2 general lecture/seminars for all graduate students
1.5 hours each
topics:
conflict of interest, peer review, research misconduct, responsible authorship, live subjects
social impact, mentor/mentee responsibilities, collaborative research (including industry),
data handling

Part B: 5 hours of workshops which will be tailored to the Faculty or Departments' needs.

or a second option for the RCR component was considered which consists of:

Part A: 3 general lecture/seminars for all graduate students
1.5 hours each
topics:
conflict of interest, peer review, research misconduct, responsible authorship, live subjects
social impact, mentor/mentee responsibilities, collaborative research (including industry),
data handling

Part B: 3.5 hours of workshops which will be tailored to the Faculty or Departments' needs.

General Information which applies to the RCR Component:

1. Graduate students will have to complete the requirement either within two (2) years or before submitting their thesis/dissertation proposal for the first time, whichever comes first.
 - a. The seminars and workshops are planned so that entering graduate students can complete the series in one year.
 - b. The General Information Seminars should be repeated each semester.
 - c. The 5 hours of workshops (Part B) can be organized or offered by either the individual departments, colleges, or the Center for Ethics.
2. The 8 hours contact time will form part of the professional development requirement if or when this is approved by the Academic Senate. The Center for Ethics in the Professions will organize this equivalency.
3. Offer workshop/seminars for interested professors.
4. Students have the *option* to take a course in Research Ethics course in place of the seminar series. The course is *not* required. The Center for Ethics will evaluate the courses to ensure that the required areas are covered.
5. This requirement use NIH suggestions as a guide in order to facilitate the implementation. (Please refer to the attachment)
6. Professors with NSF or NIH grants may enroll their student researchers in these workshops, in order to comply with the new NIH/NSF Responsible Conduct in Research requirement.
7. It was suggested that the Center will maintain CID informed as to the dates and contents of the workshops/seminars. CID will then relay this information to the researchers.
8. The Center for Ethics in the Professions will coordinate/offer these seminars and workshops for the graduate students. This would entail that the Director of the Center, as well as an expert in Research Ethics, receive 3 credits release time to attend to the organization and offering of the series.
9. The Graduate School will maintain the records for the Graduate Students.
10. Following NIH guidelines, contact hours during the course of a semester are to be preferred over solely online content. However, on-line content (Open Seminars, onlineethics.org) can be used as supplemental material.
11. The Center for Ethics in the Professions, in coordination with individual departments or Colleges, will provide RCR ethics workshops for interested professors in separate workshops.