

Dickinson College Plan for the Responsible Conduct of Research
for those receiving National Science Foundation Grants
(Effective 4 January 2010)

Dickinson College expects its faculty, students and staff to adhere to the highest ethical and professional standards in the conduct and management of research. Anyone whose research is supported by funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) is responsible for compliance with the College plan for the training and oversight of students supported by NSF funding in the responsible conduct of research.

To meet the requirement for training, Dickinson College expects that grantees receiving funding from the NSF will prepare students by reading the text of "On Being a Scientist" with their students and discussing the case studies presented there.

Grantees may exclude certain training if it is not relevant to their research project but they must explain the reason for the exclusion as part of their documentation of the training. For instance, a grantee whose research that does not involve animals or human beings as subjects could argue to exclude the "Human Participants and Animal Subjects in Research" materials.

Grantees are expected to complete this requirement within 30 days of hiring students on their NSF grant and must document that they have done so by forwarding the following statement signed by both the students and the grantee.

The statement should read as follows:

"I <grantee> have read the text and discussed the case studies in "On Being a Scientist" published by the National Academy of Sciences (Third Edition) with <names of students>. We began our readings and discussions on <start date> and completed them on <end date>." Signed and dated by the grantee and students.

The completed document should be sent to the Director of Grant Accounting (Joanne Gingrich).

To meet the requirement for oversight, Dickinson College expects NSF grantees to oversee their student researchers by serving as mentors who supervise, guide, and instruct the students supported under their NSF grant.