

**ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND POLICY AND PROCEDURES  
RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH COMPLIANCE POLICY  
Effective Date: October 26, 2016**

St. Mary's College of Maryland Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) Compliance Policy is intended to comply with the requirements of the National Science Foundation's (NSF) implementation of the requirements of Section 7009 of the America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science Act (42 U.S.C. 1862o-1) found in the NSF Award and Administration Guide: Chapter IV, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) requirements found in NOT-OD-10-019, and any other research sponsor imposing RCR requirements. The applicability criteria may expand to cover other groups of researchers and sponsors in the future. RCR is defined by NIH "...as the practice of scientific investigation with integrity. It involves the awareness and application of established professional norms and ethical principles in the performance of all activities related to scientific research."

**POLICY STATEMENT**

It is the policy of St. Mary's College of Maryland (St. Mary's) that trainees engaged in research at the undergraduate and graduate levels shall receive formal instruction in ethical considerations and decision-making in responsible conduct of research that is appropriate for their disciplines and for the stage of their research careers. Faculty, staff, students, and other members of the St. Mary's community will need to complete RCR training if the sponsor of their research imposes that requirement. It is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator/Project Director (PI) of relevant projects to ensure that all applicable research team members are informed of the requirement and that the requirement has been met. Moreover, it is the PI's responsibility to provide appropriate mentoring through discussions of RCR topics and through oversight of the research project.