

## **Best Practices: Inclusion of Ethics Courses**

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### **Q: Why is ethics education so important?**

A: The responsible and ethical conduct of research is considered an essential component of training future scientists. NSF and NIH have Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training requirements which include topics regarding authorship, publication, collaboration, peer review, mentoring, conflict of interest, data management, animal and human subjects, social responsibility, and misconduct. The ethics education is the best practices for research ethics training and some of the ethical challenges emerge at the intersection of academia and business.

### **Q: How to include ethics education in the PSM program?**

A: To develop and integrate ethics education with PSMs is to enhance awareness and critical thinking skills for future science professionals. There is a pilot model that introduces ethics education into the PSM curriculum in the context of student intern experiences. The experience includes an industry partner, faculty mentor, and student intern. The objectives are to determine the feasibility of integrating ethics education into an internship experience and the manner in which this can be done effectively; to assess the relevance of research ethics topics to a pharmaceutical/biotech company; and to gauge the perceived value of having dialogue about ethical issues specific to the profession.