As our projects focus on authentic research in Mathematics, each REU - Complexity Across Disciplines participant should become certified in professional and research ethics as relates to the standard concerns encountered in a practicing research mathematician’s career. These are predominantly related to the rights and obligations of a researcher, collaboration, communication, research artefacts and grants management, and intellectual property considerations.

This training and certification is offered through the National Center for Professional and Research Ethics - NCPRE - (http://nationalethicscenter.org). Below we give instructions on how to access this resource to complete the online training component.

Even though you may encounter numerous references to “lab” and “laboratory”, or sciences like Chemistry or Biology or Physics, or to Engineering in the mock scenarios on which the quiz questions are based, the actual topics featured are universal for STEM fields, including Mathematics. The terminology is a relic of the origins of the NCPRE.

Step 1: Create a user account

If you do not already have an account at the NCPRE site, click on “REGISTER” in the top right corner, and in the appropriate textboxes provide information requested. In particular, provide a valid e-mail address, as upon initial registration you will receive a validation e-mail prior to being granted access to the site as a user.

Step 2: Log in as a user

Using the user name and password created during Step 1, click on the “LOGIN” box in the top right corner, directly left of the “REGISTER” button, and log in. Upon log in you will land on a page titled your “DASHBOARD”.

Step 3: Proceed to the training interface

From the drop-down list of the menu item “RCR MODULES FROM CMDITR”, select "RCR User account registration”. Upon landing on the page “New User Registration”, select REU Complexity Across Disciplines under the question What group are you affiliated with?. Then select, or click on, the “Register” button.

Now the Ethics Tutorials will be displaying three modules, each with an introductory section followed by five content sections. After studying the five sections of a module, there will be a brief quiz based on hypothetical scenarios. Note that it is not necessary to first consult the rather extensive reference links directly preceding the “Take the quiz” button at the end of the fifth section of each module.

Additional Remarks

It is necessary to complete all three modules to be certified, but it is not necessary to complete them all in one sitting. It is possible to return and continue with a previously incomplete module, using the same process as in Steps 2 and 3.

Time line

Please complete this component of your ethics training during the first week of the REU CAD program. For any questions please contact Dr. Liljana Babinkostova, REU-CAD Principal Investigator, at liljanababinkostova@boisestate.edu.