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### Research Security Training

Research security training is listed as one of four elements of a Research Security Program required by National Security Presidential Memorandum 33, issued on Jan. 14, 2021, to safeguard our research ecosystem. The "CHIPS and Science Act of 2022," Section 10634, codifies the requirement for research security training for federal research award personnel in public law.

The *Research Security at the University of California* course will take approximately 30-40 minutes to complete. This course fulfills the training requirements of the CHIPS and Science Act and National Security Presidential Memo-33 for covered individuals applying for federal research funding. It includes –

- An overview of Research Security
- Case studies
- International collaboration
- Disclosure
- Information and data security
- Elicitation
- Talent recruitment programs and Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Programs
- International travel

The *Research Security at the University of California* course will be available **in early April 2025**.



## NIH Implements DURC/PEPP Policy

A new [National Institutes of Health Policy](#) will expand the scope of research that falls within federal and institutional oversight. The policy, which takes effect **May 6, 2025**, aligns with the updated federal framework for conducting and managing certain types of federally funded life sciences research on biological agents and toxins.

NIH's policy will require certain oversight actions that begin when a federal agency is considering funding a proposal and continue throughout the lifespan of the work. All research – including current projects and proposals being submitted for funding – may be subject to the new policy.

A summary of “Dual Use Research of Concern and Pathogens with Enhanced Pandemic Potential,” or DURC/PEPP, follows:

### Category 1

Research involving all risk group 4 biological agents and Select Agents and Toxins, and a subset of risk group 3 biological agents that may result in any of the following experimental outcomes:

- Increase transmissibility of a pathogen within or between host species.
- Increase virulence of a pathogen or convey virulence to a non-pathogen.
- Increase resistance to a pathogen or toxin to clinical and/or veterinary prophylactic or therapeutic interventions.
- Increase the toxicity of a known toxin or produce a novel toxin.
- Increase the stability of a pathogen or toxin in the environment or increase the ability to disseminate a pathogen or toxin.
- Alter the host range or tropism of a pathogen or toxin.
- Decrease the ability for a human or veterinary pathogen or toxin to be detected using standard diagnostic or analytical methods.
- Alter a human or veterinary pathogen or toxin to disrupt the effectiveness of pre-existing immunity, via immunization or natural infection, against the pathogen or toxin.
- Enhance the susceptibility of a host population to a pathogen or toxin.

### Category 2

Research involving a human pathogen or potential human pathogen that is likely to spread uncontrollably and cause moderate to severe disease and/or mortality in humans and can reasonably be expected to result in any of the following experimental outcomes:

- Enhance transmissibility of the pathogen in humans.
- Enhance the virulence of a pathogen in humans.
- Enhance the immune evasion of the pathogen in humans such as by modifying the pathogen to disrupt the effectiveness of pre-existing immunity via immunization or natural infection.
- Generate, use, reconstitute or transfer an eradicated or extinct pathogen with pandemic potential, or a previously identified pathogen with enhanced pandemic potential.

The Office of Research Compliance and Integrity and Environmental Health and Safety are collaborating to implement the revised policy requirements locally. A subcommittee of the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) will be appointed as the Institutional Review Entity (IRE) to review proposed activities with DURC potential. Any faculty members interested in joining the IRE should contact Associate Biosafety Officer, Kaylee Chang at [kchang49@ucmerced.edu](mailto:kchang49@ucmerced.edu).

### Additional Resources:

- [USG Policy for Oversight of Dual Use Research of Concern and Pathogens with Enhanced Pandemic Potential, May 2024.](#)

## Research with Industrial Hemp and Cannabis

UC Merced researchers who wish to pursue research that involves marijuana or industrial hemp, or whose research is sponsored by the marijuana industry should, prior to commencement of any such research, consult with the Office of Research Compliance and Integrity by contacting Chou Xiong, RCI Assistant Director, at [cxiong51@ucmerced.edu](mailto:cxiong51@ucmerced.edu).

Research that involves the cultivation, distribution, possession, or direct use of marijuana or its extracts or derivatives will require a Schedule 1 registration from the DEA. To begin this process please contact Melissa Russell, Chemical Hygiene Officer, Environmental Health and Safety, at [mrussell4@ucmerced.edu](mailto:mrussell4@ucmerced.edu).

Review the RCI Cannabis Research website for more information.

## Post Approval Monitoring Program

The Research Compliance and Integrity office is pleased to announce the implementation of a Post-Approval Monitoring (PAM) program as part of our commitment to the highest standards of animal welfare and regulatory compliance.

This program enhances our ability to ensure that all approved research and teaching protocols involving animals are conducted in accordance with institutional, federal, and state regulations. Post-approval monitoring will help support researchers by providing education, ensuring protocol compliance, and fostering a culture of continuous improvement.

More information on PAM and other policies can be found on the [RCI website](#).

## IACUC Policy Updates

UC Merced's Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (IACUC) is currently reviewing and updating our policies in preparation of next year's AAALAC site visit. We would like to take this opportunity to remind all animal researchers to review UC Merced's IACUC policies & guidance documents to ensure your current protocols and procedures are in line with policy expectations. All policies can be found on our website here: <https://rci.ucmerced.edu/iacuc/policies-guidance-and-other-resources>

Additionally, the IACUC website includes helpful [resources](#), [regulatory information](#), [committee meeting schedule](#), [training requirements](#) and [more](#).

Please contact the IACUC office should you have any questions.

IACUC Office:

Phone: 209-228-4805

Email: [iacucoffice@ucmerced.edu](mailto:iacucoffice@ucmerced.edu)

## Need Help with IRB? Explore Our Resources!

Navigating Institutional Review Board (IRB) requirements can be complex, but we're here to help! Whether you're submitting a new protocol, making modifications, or ensuring compliance, our IRB resources provide the guidance you need. Access our **FAQs** to help streamline your research approval process.

Looking for additional support? An IRB expert is available for in person trainings and presentations as needed.

Please contact [irboffice@ucmerced.edu](mailto:irboffice@ucmerced.edu) for more information.



