

## **EACC Guidance Statement for Approving Alternatives to SYGN 502 for Meeting the NSF Ethics Education Requirement**

### **Background**

Two important factors influence the specific CSM policy for meeting the NSF Ethics Education Requirement.

The first factor is provided by statements from the NSF itself. "NSF anticipates that institutions will develop their RCR [responsible conduct of research] training programs in a manner that helps prepare the next generation of researchers, including the consideration of risks or other factors associated with student and postdoctoral researcher participation in research." At the same time, "it is the responsibility of each institution to determine both the content and the delivery method for the training that will meet the institution's specific needs for RCR training in all areas at that institution for which NSF provides support."

Thus NSF requires ethics education but asks individual institutions to undertake this training in light of their own specific self-understandings.

The second factor thus becomes the context of education at CSM. With regard to CSM, it is appropriate to reference our mission and goals. The *Graduate Bulletin* states that the CSM mission "will be achieved by the creation, integration, and exchange of knowledge in engineering, the natural sciences, the social sciences, the humanities, business and their union to create processes and products to enhance the quality of life of the world's inhabitants." CSM is further committed to "promoting stewardship of the Earth upon which all life and development depend." Our RCR requirement thus ought to keep these ideals in mind in formulating outcomes.

### **Outcomes for the CSM Graduate Ethics Education Requirement**

The CSM graduate RCR education requirement is thus formulated in light of the distinctive CSM aspiration to integrate and exchange knowledge in engineering, the natural sciences, the social sciences, the humanities, business and their union in ways that promote the creation of processes and products to enhance the quality of life of the world's inhabitants. As a contribution to this mission, we seek to insure that applied scientists and engineers who have earned advanced degrees from or served as postdocs at CSM be able to

- (1) Compare, contrast, and evaluate at least two basic ethical theories;
- (2) Address a range of ethical issues they may confront in their professional lives; and
- (3) Articulate their own ethical ideals and commitments to science, society, and the environment.

It can further be observed that these outcomes constitute a core subset of the outcomes for SYGN 502 Introduction to Research Ethics, which was approved by the Graduate Council as the default method for meeting the NSF Ethics Education Requirement.

### **Proposals for Alternatives to SYGN 502**

In light of these outcomes for meeting the CSM ethics education requirement, the Ethics Across Campus Committee (EACC) welcomes proposals that address the following five points:

1. Mode(s) of delivery
2. Material used
3. Description how the three basic outcomes are to be met
4. Method of assessment of student learning outcomes
5. Name of responsible faculty member and commitment/background of that person to ethics-related activities (e.g. EAC events, McBride, ethics activities of professional societies, etc.)