



Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI)

CITI is an organization whose goal is to develop and distribute high quality, peer reviewed educational resources designed to raise awareness to the Responsible Conduct of Research for all members of the research team. CITI maintains an educational website where participating organizations can design and roll out a customized curriculum for their investigators, students and administrators. CITI Logon Website: <https://www.citiprogram.org/default.asp?language=english>

Courses offered include: Responsible Conduct of Research, Human Subjects Protection, Vertebrate Animal Research, Institutional Biosafety

The University of Scranton instructions for CITI are as follows*:

Course Selection:

The course selection page is divided into four areas (Item 1, Questions 1-3).

Item 1 refers to Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training, including academic integrity topics such as plagiarism and falsification of data. Anyone completing **any other training module must complete this RCR course.**

The remaining questions will lead you to the necessary training based on your research activities:

- Question 1** - pertains to Human Subjects Research, and must be completed by anyone seeking approval from the Institutional Review Board (IRB) and/or taking part in human research.
- Question 2** - pertains to Vertebrate Animal Research as is required by the University's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).
- Question 3** - is specific to anyone performing research that falls under the purview of the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC).

Once you have selected your courses, follow the instructions to complete the curriculum and associated tests you have selected.

A quiz follows each module. **An average score of at least 80% must be attained in each course.** Once you complete a course, you will be able to print out a Completion Report from your learner's menu. The Completion Report will have a unique number (also called the Reference Number) and an expiration date. A copy will be sent to the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. **All courses expire after two years, and the full course must be completed upon expiration.**

***Please note that training requirements and completion instructions have changed effective 01/01/2013.**

Student Scholars Celebration:

The University of Scranton will hold its **13th Annual Celebration of Student Scholars** on **Tuesday, May 7, 2013**. This event will celebrate both undergraduate and graduate student scholarship by featuring their work through either a physical display of posters or oral presentations.

New Location:

- Posters will be displayed in the LSC Lobby
 - Oral Presentations in LSC 133
- Light refreshments will be provided.

A reception dinner at which we celebrate these accomplishments will be held following the event for participants and their faculty mentors.

Upcoming Events:

- 02/15/13**—Research Seminar Series, Darwin Day
- 02/22/13**—Research Seminar Series, Stacey Muir, Ph.D.
- 03/01/13**—Research Seminar Series, Cyrus Olsen, D. Phil.
- 03/05/13**—*Early Investigators: Launching a Successful Research Career Webinar*
- 03/15/13**—Research Seminar Series, Dan Townsend, Ph.D.
- 04/05/13**—Research Seminar Series, Paul Datti, Ph.D.
- 04/11/13**—*3rd Annual Conference on Aging*
- 04/26/13**—Research Seminar Series, Andrew LaZella, Ph.D.
- 05/03/13**—Research Seminar Series, Harry Dammer, Ph.D.
- 05/07/13**—*13th Annual Student Scholars Celebration*
- 05/21/13-05/23/13**—*4th Annual Faculty Grants Writing Workshop*

Mary Jane Hanson, Ph.D.

Research Spotlight

Dr. Mary Jane Hanson, Professor of Nursing, is a family nurse practitioner with expertise in cigarette smoking behavior among adolescents and teens from various ethnic groups. Her work includes the development of a research instrument that has been widely used by colleagues in nursing, psychology, communication science, and nutrition from universities in the U.S., as well as Canada, England, Chile, and Thailand. Dr. Hanson's research has been funded by the National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health, Sigma Theta Tau nursing honor society, and the University of Scranton. She is currently working on a project with one of our graduate students to identify factors associated with smoking behavior in millennial generation teenagers. The information gleaned from this study will then be used to develop population specific tailored smoking prevention programs, which have been shown to be much more effective than generic health promotion messages regarding smoking. In addition to her cigarette smoking behavior research, Dr. Hanson also has an interest in graduate nursing program development and has received over \$1.5 million in grant funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Health Professions for this work. Her current project through this grant funding is to promote inter-professional collaboration through the development and implementation of an innovative interdisciplinary educational model. She is collaborating with nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and counseling faculty for this project. Dr. Hanson is an advocate for including graduate and undergraduate students in her research and participates in the Faculty Student Research Program.

What's News in Research?



Obtain Strong Letters of Support Published by NIH & NSF Funding Advisor

[A] letter of support can be a vital component of your grant application. That's why procuring the right kind of letter is so essential. "Funding agencies don't like letters of advocacy," says Nathan Meier, Proposal Development Manager at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. "Anyone can solicit that type of letter, so it becomes meaningless."

Your letters of support should address the merits of your project, but they should also move beyond that. "The letters need to define the substance of the individual applicant: what he has done, where he's going, and his future strengths," says Rich Holden, Ph.D., Associate Vice President for Research at Oregon State University.

Who should write a letter of support? Approach individuals who are familiar with your work, Meier recommends. Ask mentors and colleagues you have worked closely with on other research projects. Holden says reviewers value letters from these individuals more than letters from your institution. "There are institutional letters, and there are the professional letters of support," he says. "Professional letters seem to carry the most weight."

When should you ask for a letter? Make contact with potential authors well in advance of the grant application's deadline, Meier advises. "Everyone's busy, so it's definitely not something you should leave until the last minute," he says.

How do you solicit a letter? There are several ways of asking for letters of support. Meier says the most authentic way is to ask the author to review your application and draft a letter. But time constraints may prevent you from having a completed application to give him. In this case, create a summary that contains enough information for the author to craft a solid letter. Be sure the summary addresses the following:

- Your program's direction
- How it aligns with your history, even if it's relatively short
- How your project ties into the future direction of your research career.

You can also send the author an email with bullet points that describe what you want highlighted in the letter. This saves the author time, which may mean you'll receive the letter sooner. The same is true if you write a first draft of the letter yourself. Sending the author a draft lets him know exactly what you want him to say. Just ask the author to edit the letter and return it to you.

What else should the letter highlight? Letter of support should address the following:

- Your relationship with the author. The author should define how he is familiar with your work.
- The author's involvement in your project. For example, is he going to help with data analysis? Will he supply a resource to the project? Or will he only be available to provide advice?
- Potential collaboration. The author can also discuss the possibility of working with you.

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Website: <http://matrix.scranton.edu/academics/provost/research/>