

Office of Research Compliance



The Office of Research Compliance (ORC) provides comprehensive regulatory guidance to the University of Maine research community regarding the specific components of research compliance listed below. Please visit our website for guidance and resources on each of these topics, and contact us with any questions.



Animal Subjects

Work involving the use of vertebrate animals requires approval by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).



Human Subjects

Human subjects research requires approval by the Institutional Review Board (IRB).



Biosafety

Work involving biohazards including infectious agents and/or recombinant or synthetic nucleic acids requires approval by the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC).



Research Misconduct

Information about what constitutes misconduct in research and other scholarly activities, and how to report suspected misconduct is available on the ORC website.



Conflict of Interest

Training and certification for Financial Conflicts of Interest is required for ALL investigators. Training information is available on the ORC website.



Research Security

All researchers must be transparent about their foreign relationships and activities, and take steps to protect their research.



Controlled Substances

Work involving the use of DEA controlled substances, hemp, or hemp derivatives must contact ORC for prior approval.



Responsible Conduct of Research

Training may be required for work with funding from NSF, NIH, or USDA-NIFA.



Export Control

Contact ORC if work will involve export controls, sensitive technology, foreign collaborations (including visiting scholars), foreign national participation in research activities, international travel, and/or international shipping.



Safety

Activities involving radioactive materials, ionizing producing equipment, or Class 3B or 4 lasers require approval from the Radiation Safety Committee (RSC). Activities involving hazardous chemicals or regulated wastes, underwater diving, respiratory protection, excessive noise, or other special safety must contact UMS Safety Management at sem@maine.edu.

For general inquiries, and inquiries about Animal Care (IACUC), Biosafety (IBC), or Human Subjects (IRB): umric@maine.edu

For inquiries about Export Control: um.export@maine.edu

umaine.edu/research-compliance

New to UMaine? Research Compliance Steps to Take

The Office of Research Compliance (ORC) welcomes you to the University of Maine! We encourage you to take the following steps prior to beginning any research activities to ensure compliance.

1. **Visit the ORC website** and review guidance for areas that may apply to your work. We offer in depth policies, guidance, and resources to guide you through each area of research compliance.
2. **Determine if any trainings or approvals are required** before initiating your research.
3. **Complete required trainings**, including the Financial Conflict of Interest training (required for all researchers) and any others required for your work using CITI, accessible via the ORC website.
4. **Contact ORC** with any questions or to schedule a consultation.

Helpful Acronyms in Research Compliance at UMaine

- **CITI** - Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative
- **FCOI** - Financial Conflict of Interest
- **ECR** - Export Control Regulations
- **IACUC** - Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
- **IBC** - Institutional Biosafety Committee
- **IRB** - Institutional Review Board
- **ORC** - Office of Research Compliance
- **RCR** - Responsible Conduct of Research
- **RSC** - Radiation Safety Committee
- **SM** - Safety Management

Research Compliance Partners

ORC works closely with various offices at UMaine and at the University of Maine System (UMS) to ensure compliance, including the following key partners:

- Office of the Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School (OVPRDGS)
- Office of Research Administration (ORA)
- Office of Innovation & Economic Development (OIED)
- Advanced Research, Computing, Security, and Information Management (ARCSIM)
- UMS Safety Management
- UMS Office of General Counsel
- UMS Information Security Office

Sign up for ORC's Research Compliance Newsletter!



Receive the latest on research compliance at UMaine directly in your email inbox once per semester! Sign up using the QR code, or via the News & Events page of the ORC website.

