Responsible Conduct in Research
Subset of Physics 500.011 (CRN 76686)
Fall 2026

Class Dates: Friday November 6th, November 13th, November 20th, and December 4th.

Class Time: 08:30 AM – 10:00 AM. **Class Location:** PAIS Building, Room 2540

Class Homepage and Syllabus: https://physics.unm.edu/graduate/new-graduates-seminar.html

Group Projects: At least two additional hours of work outside of class should be anticipated to complete the required group projects discussed below.

Instructor: Paul R. Schwoebel
Office hours: Please contact via email to make an appointment.
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Texts: 1. *On Being a Scientist: A Guide to Responsible Conduct in Research* (3rd Edition National Academies Press, WDC, 2009).

Free pdf available at class homepage or: http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12192

2. *On Being a Scientist: A Guide to Responsible and Ethical Conduct in Research* (4th Edition National Academies Press, WDC, 2026).

Online Modules available at: https://www.nationalacademies.org/projects/PGA-POLICY-21-13/publication/29488

Corequisite: Completion of online training entitled *Understanding Conflict of Interest and Commitment in Research* at https://learningcentral.unm.edu/

Objectives: To introduce students to the key ideas underlying responsible conduct in research and certify them to conduct research at, or in connection with, UNM

Certification or Recertification: Attending all four classes and completion of both the group presentation and online training is required for certification or recertification. Recertification is required every 4-years. Registration for Physics 500 is NOT required for either certification or recertification.

Schedule:

November 6: Introduction; Advising and Mentoring; Treatment of Data; Mistakes and Negligence; Research Misconduct.

November 13: Responding to Violations of Professional Standards; Human Participants and Animal Subjects in Research; Laboratory Safety; Sharing of Research Results and Peer Review; Authorship and the Allocation of Credit; Intellectual Property.

November 20: Collaborative Research; Competing Interests, Commitments, and Values; AI; The Researcher in Society; Group Presentations.

December 4: Group Presentations.

Group Presentations: The class will be divided into groups and each group will choose a topic, or topics, from those highlighted in class. Outside class the group will develop *their own* case study focused on their topic(s). The group will have, depending upon the number of groups, approximately 20 minutes to present the case to the class and lead a discussion about the case and the ways it can be resolved. The use of handouts and other media such as video is encouraged. All members of the group are expected to participate significantly in the case preparation, presentation, and discussion. It is anticipated that at least two-hours of preparation will be required for each group presentation. This time serves as critical informal instruction required for RCR certification. Groups will make presentations during class on November 20th and December 4th.

Accommodations: UNM is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for students with documented disabilities. As your instructor, it is my objective to facilitate an inclusive classroom setting, in which students have full access and opportunity to participate. To engage in a confidential conversation about the process for requesting reasonable accommodations for this class and/or program, please contact Accessibility Resource Center (https://arc.unm.edu/) at arcsrvs@unm.edu or by phone at 505-277-3506.

Title IX: The University of New Mexico and its faculty are committed to supporting our students and providing an environment that is free of bias, discrimination, and harassment. The University's programs and activities, including the classroom, should always provide a space of mutual respect, kindness, and support without fear of harassment, violence, or discrimination. Discrimination on the basis of sex includes discrimination on the basis of assigned sex at birth, sex characteristics, pregnancy and pregnancy related conditions, sexual orientation and gender identity. If you have encountered any form of discrimination on the basis of sex, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, domestic or dating violence, we encourage you to report this to the University. You can access the confidential resources available on campus at the LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center (https://loborespect.unm.edu), the Women's Resource Center (https://women.unm.edu), and the LGBTQ Resource Center (https://lgbtqrc.unm.edu). If you speak with an instructor (including a TA or a GA) regarding an incident connected to discrimination on the basis of sex, they must notify UNM's Title IX Coordinator that you shared an experience relating to Title IX, even if you ask the instructor not to disclose it. The Title IX Coordinator is available to assist you in understanding your options and in connecting you with all possible resources on and off campus. For more information on the campus policy regarding sexual misconduct and reporting, please see https://policy.unm.edu/university-policies/2000/2740.html and CEEO's website.

If you are pregnant or experiencing a pregnancy-related condition, you may contact UNM's Office of Compliance, Ethics, and Equal Opportunity at ceeo@unm.edu. The CEEO staff will provide you with access to available resources and supportive measures and assist you in understanding your rights.