Mandatory Ethics Training for Graduate Students
Department of Biological Sciences

FGSR regulations now state that all graduate students admitted on or after September 2004 must have eight hours of mandatory ethics training (https://uofa.ualberta.ca/graduate-studies/current-students/academic-requirements/ethics). Although many ethical issues are common to all students, there are also issues specific to certain groups within our diverse department. Students can therefore choose a personalized program of various options to make up their minimum eight hour requirement of “structured academic activities”. We will attempt to have as many options as possible available each year, although some options may vary from year to year. Other options may be added as opportunities arise.

Completion of Ethics Program Requirement. You are encouraged to complete your ethics training during your first year. You should have completed your 8 hours of training by the end of your second year (MSc) or by your candidacy exam (PhD, usually the end of second year). Monitoring: The number of hours spent on ethics training will be recorded by the Grad Office (CW312) on the student’s electronic file. Papers verifying participation will be kept in an envelope within the student file. The grad office will send notification when a student has reached the 8 hour minimum. This will result in an official notation on your transcript, that you have completed ethic training.

Options for “Structured Academic Activity” in ethics:
Note: We require some documentation of your participation in your chosen activities.

1. FGSR Orientation Lecture (1.5 hours each)
   - Code of Student Conduct
   - Plagiarism
   - Ethics in Teaching
   - Ism's in Teaching: How to deal with sensitive issues such as Racism, Genderism, Sexism, & so on
   - Mitigating Conflict in Graduate Student-Supervisor Relationships 1.5 hours
   - Copyright

2. The FGSR WebCT Moodle course “GET with the program” (5 hours). This covers 5 topics: Conflict of Interest, Graduate student-faculty relationships, Intellectual property and credit, Conflict resolution, and Integrity and scholarship. Testing is by multiple choice questions. A verification document can be printed and given to the CW312 Grad office upon completion.

3. University Animal Policy and Welfare Committee (UAPWC) Course (Part 1) As of September 1, 2012 (3 hours). This is already a requirement for all students working with animals. Only 3 hours is considered to be ethics based. Please provide photocopy of certificate.

4. Grad courses which cover ethical issues (up to 8 hrs). Example: Genet 500, a portion of which deals with scientific integrity and misconduct (currently 1/3 of the course). Instructor should forward verification (students should remind instructor of this).

5. BIOL 603 - (3 hours). This course has workshops on Environmental Ethics, Moral Rights of Animals, and Biodiversity (Paszkowski/Tonn).

6. "Ethics and Scientific Integrity Day" put on by the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry Research Office. (5 hours). Offered twice/year. This course covers many of the issues found in the WebCT course, and is broadly based. The Faculty of Science will pay the fee. Please provide documentation of attendance.
7. Attendance at public lectures on ethics. Check with the grad office to determine if a particular lecture is eligible. Attendance can be verified by obtaining a signature of the organizer or speaker on a lecture announcement.

8. Tri-Council TCPS 2 Course (**3 hours**)

9. Other workshops or discussion groups may be scheduled.

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