

PEERRS REQUIREMENTS

Beginning **March 15, 2007**, eResearch will strictly enforce the long-standing University requirement for **human subjects** certification of personnel in designated study roles (PI, Co-I/s, faculty advisor, study coordinator/project manager) on human research projects. Enforcement will apply to NEW STUDIES and AMENDMENTS submitted on March 15, 2007 or later.

FREQUENTLY ASKED PEERRS QUESTIONS

- **What is PEERRS?**

The *Program for Education and Evaluation in Responsible Research and Scholarship* (PEERRS) is a web-based foundational instruction and certification program for faculty and staff engaged in or associated with research at the University of Michigan. Completion of a human subjects module is required for principal investigators, co-investigators, faculty advisors, study coordinators/project managers involved in human subjects research. PEERRS is found at <http://my.research.umich.edu/peerrs/>.

- **What does 'eResearch will strictly enforce' mean?**

If all required personnel do not have the needed certification the IRB will not have the activity that allows them to approve a submission and send out an approval notice in the eResearch system.

- **I completed PEERRS modules; why does eResearch state I haven't?**

There are three possible reasons:

1. eResearch only looks to see if a *'human subjects'* module has been completed. There are four other modules in PEERRS—Foundations of Responsible Research Conduct, Research Administration, Conflict of Interest, and Animal Research. **You must be certified in human subjects for eResearch to say "Yes" in the PEERRS column.**
2. eResearch updates the PEERRS information nightly. Confirmation of completion can take up to 48 hours to display.
3. There could be a communication problem between the eResearch and PEERRS systems. Send an inquiry to the maishelpdesk@umich.edu and PEERRS@umich.edu.

- **Do co-investigators who work at other institutions have to complete PEERRS?**

The human subjects training requirement is set by the UM Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR). Upon request, OVPR will consider a waiver of equivalency for investigators from other institutions who have completed human subjects courses like the UM PEERRS modules.

Email peerrs@umich.edu to request a waiver and include:

1. Name of the investigator and her institution/university
2. Role on UM study
3. Description of course completed and a link to it if available on the web
4. Electronic copy of the completion certificate (if available)

- **Does PEERRS training fulfill the NIH requirement for human subjects training for PIs and "key personnel"?**

Yes. On NIH applications or just-in-time information requests where it asks for information about certifying your human subjects training, enter your PEERRS certification approval date (not expiration date) for the human subjects module. The transcript shows the expiration date so count back three years and enter the date you actually passed the certification test. Also add a one sentence description of PEERRS, such as, "PEERRS consists of educational modules and short tests covering basic rules, procedures and professional norms for the responsible conduct of research by anyone involved in research and scholarship at the University of Michigan."