

LANGURE's discipline-specific modules

For nearly two years, the Senior and Junior Research Ethics Fellows in LANGURE have seriously, fruitfully and at times passionately debated the pedagogical foundations and philosophical goals of research ethics education. As a result, we have gained clarity about our objectives and methods, both for the core course and for the discipline-specific modules. Here is a summary of where we are at the end of Year 2 as we begin to finalize the core and modules.

LANGURE's course, now known as the "OpenSeminar in Research Ethics," is a 1 credit hour course for doctoral students. OpenSeminar consists of online required readings and 14 contact hours of face-to-face discussions. If OpenSeminar is taught in 7 sessions of 2 classroom hours per week, then there are 6 weeks for the core (6 wks x 2 hrs/wk = 12 contact hours) plus 2 hours (1 week) for the discipline specific module.

1. The core will cover research misconduct (plagiarism, falsification and fabrication of data), authorship, mentoring, intellectual property, and many other issues.
2. The discipline-specific (DS) modules should focus on the social responsibility(ies) of researchers in the discipline (e.g., computer science, physics, etc).
3. The DS module will be discussed in Week 6 by doctoral students who have completed Weeks 1-5 of OpenSeminar. They will, therefore, have completed discussions of all core topics except for Week 7's discussion of continuing education resources, the course review and instructor evaluation.
4. Students will have read the DS module before gathering for a 2-hour seminar in the department, to be led by a departmental member, preferably a senior faculty member.
5. The module will end with a true (or very plausible) case study that raises 3 or 4 important ethical issues for researchers in the discipline. These issues will be carefully articulated in discussion questions at the end of the case. The departmental seminar may begin by the discussant posing one of the questions to the students.

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