Using CITI Program Content:
Animal Care and Use (ACU)

CONTENT AUTHOR

- **Kathy Wadsworth, CPIA, CIP**
  CITI Program

INTRODUCTION

Like all CITI Program educational materials, the components of the ACU series can be customized to meet the specific needs of your organization's learners. Taking advantage of this flexibility requires that you are familiar with the CITI Program's ACU content offerings and with the capabilities of the CITI Program's web platform to deliver them. This module addresses the components of the ACU series. For general information on the CITI Program's instructional capabilities, see **Using CITI Program Content: An Introduction**.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this module, you should be able to:

- Identify the structure of the ACU series and how it can be customized to meet the needs of your organization's learner groups.
- Determine how to access the ACU series based on organization-wide or individual needs.
- Specify the set up of suitable ACU content for your organization's learner groups.
- Obtain additional information on the ACU series from the **ACU Catalog**, Help Desk Staff, and Sales Group.

ACU SERIES OVERVIEW

CITI Program's ACU series offers courses for Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) members, researchers, research assistants, animal workers, and staff. Typically, training should begin with at least one basic course, followed by a refresher course that learners would complete within a time period designated by the organization (for example, three years after completing the basic course). The ACU series also offers animal-specific courses that are meant to supplement the basic course(s) and are presented to learners based on their research activities. Additional standalone courses for institutional officials (IOs) responsible for academic and commercial animal care and use programs, and IACUC chairs are also available.

Basic Courses

- o **Working with the IACUC**
    - ▪ Suggested Audiences: Researchers, scientists, and animal workers

- o **Essentials for IACUC Members**
    - ▪ Suggested Audiences: IACUC members and staff

- o **IACUC Community Member**
    - ▪ Suggested Audiences: Unaffiliated and/or non-scientific IACUC members

- o **Post-Procedure Care of Mice and Rats in Research: Minimizing Pain and Distress**
    - ▪ Suggested Audiences: IACUC members, researchers, research assistants, and animal workers. It is typically recommended that learners complete the *Working with the IACUC* course prior to taking this course.

- o **Wildlife Research**
    - ▪ Suggested Audiences: Persons who study wildlife in the field or in captivity, and for those who oversee or review protocols for wildlife research.

- o **Post-Approval Monitoring (PAM)**
    - • Suggested Audiences: Anyone involved in PAM, such as IACUC members and staff, researchers, and research staff.

Refresher Courses

- o **Working with the IACUC - Refresher**
    - ▪ This course is based on the basic *Working with the IACUC* course and therefore serves as a linked training sequence. This course is designed for researchers, research assistants, animal workers, and staff.

- o **IACUC Member Refresher Case Studies**
    - ▪ These case studies present learners with various scenarios depicting "real-life" problems encountered by IACUCs and typically present both sides of contentious issues. Learners are then asked to select actions that the IACUC or principal investigator could take. This approach to refresher training is intended to form an interesting re-encounter of issues for learners. A suggested refresher course consists of three or more case studies. The case studies can also be used during IACUC meetings for supplemental training purposes.

Animal-Specific Courses

The animal-specific courses provide an introduction to the regulatory mandates and biological components of particular animals. These courses are meant for IACUC members, researchers, research assistants, animal workers, and staff. It is typically recommended that learners complete the basic *Working with the IACUC* course prior to taking animal-specific courses.

- o **Working with Amphibians in Research Settings**
- o **Working with Cats in Research Settings**
- o **Working with Cattle in Agricultural Research Settings**
- o **Working with Dogs in Research Settings**
- o **Working with Ferrets in Research Settings**
- o **Working with Fish in Research Settings**
- o **Working with Gerbils in Research Settings**
- o **Working with Guinea Pigs in Research Settings**
- o **Working with Hamsters in Research Settings**
- o **Working with Horses in Agricultural Settings**
- o **Working with Mice in Research Settings**
- o **Working with Non-Human Primates in Research Settings**
- o **Working with Rabbits in Research Settings**
- o **Working with Rats in Research Settings**
- o **Working with Reptiles in Research Settings**
- o **Working with Sheep and Goats in Research Settings**
- o **Working with Swine in Research Settings**
- o **Working with Zebrafish (Danio rerio) in Research Settings**

Institutional Official: Animal Care and Use Course

- o **Institutional Official: Animal Care and Use**
  - ▪ This course provides an introduction to the role and responsibilities of the IO as guided by federal regulations, as well as the various organizational policies and procedures as set forth by the organization in which the animal care and use program is situated. The course describes the role of the IO as an organizational leader and as a critical representative of the organization's animal research program.

IACUC Chair Course

- o **IACUC Chair**
  - ▪ This course provides an introduction to the roles and responsibilities of the IACUC chair as guided by Animal Welfare Act Regulations (AWAR) and Public Health Service (PHS), and also addresses the IACUC chair's role and responsibilities during and outside of IACUC meetings.

SUBSCRIPTION OPTIONS

ACU series subscriptions are available to both organizations and independent learners. Review the information below to help determine which option best meets your current needs. To discuss these options in further detail, please contact **sales@citiprogram.org**.

Organization Subscription

ACU series access is included within the CITI Program base subscription fee. Organization access allows for unlimited learner use (per site), designated administrative oversight, and the flexibility to use the course's modules in a number of different ways as discussed in the next section.

Independent Learner Subscription

ACU courses are available to independent learners for $110/course. Independent learner access is intended for those not affiliated to an organization that subscribes to the CITI Program or whose organization does not offer the ACU courses.

SELECTING COURSES FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION'S LEARNERS

For ACU series, the CITI Program offers the following options on how modules are presented to learners.

- **Required:** A module that must be taken by the learner in order to earn a Completion Report.
- **Elective:** A module that is associated with a set of other **Elective** modules. Learners select and complete a specified minimum number of electives from the set in order to earn a Completion Report. For example, if a learner group contains the requirement of completing six **Elective** modules, and ten choices are presented, the learner has to complete any six of the ten in order to move forward.
- **Supplemental:** A module that becomes available to the learner after all **Required** and **Elective** modules have been completed. A learner may review **Supplemental** modules on a voluntary basis.

The selection of **Required**, **Elective**, and **Supplemental** is entirely at the discretion of your organization. Although, there must be at least one **Required** module for each learner group.

It is important to note that organizations may also develop customized organization-specific content to supplement the training. Organizations then work with the CITI Program to develop modules that are included in learner groups for seamless delivery to learners.

Organizations may choose to create separate ACU learner groups containing only the ACU modules in any combination as noted above. Alternatively, organizations may add the ACU modules to existing learner groups. A combination of both an ACU-specific learner group and inclusion of ACU modules in existing learner groups is yet a third option for organizations.

In keeping with the options above, the CITI Program can assist administrators in creating courses (learner groups) that best meet their organizational needs, including utilizing modules from across the CITI Program. To discuss course recommendations that combine modules from different CITI Program offerings, please contact the Help Desk at **support@citiprogram.org** or (888)-529-5929.

LEARNER GROUPS

The creation of learner groups for your organization is a key part of the set up process. While the CITI Program affords organizations multiple ways of forming learner groups, it offers organizations the opportunity to select pre-determined learner groups or "set-ups." For example, a basic course learner group for animal researchers working with rats and mice might reflect the following set-up:

University of Great States – Researcher Learner Group

Basic Courses

- o Working with the IACUC
- o Post-Procedure Care of Mice and Rats in Research: Reducing Pain and Distress

Animal-Specific Courses

- o Working with Mice in Research Settings
- o Working with Rats in Research Settings

INDEPENDENT LEARNERS

For a listing of ACU courses available to independent learners, see the **Independent Learner Course Guide**.

RETRAINING FREQUENCY

There is not one uniform standard regarding how frequently ACU training should occur. However, it has been our experience that most organizations select a three-year period of retraining. CITI Program's ACU refresher courses allow organizations multiple options when it comes to developing content to meet their retraining needs, including different timings between basic and refresher course stages depending on the learner group.

TRAINING METHODS

There is not a uniform standard regarding the methods and format used for ACU training. CITI Program content is designed to be a component of an overall foundation of training for an organization's affiliates. We recommend that organizations build frameworks of training that combine CITI Program content with face-to-face training, one-on-one mentoring, and other types of learning opportunities, as appropriate to the particular topics and their organizational cultures.

LANGUAGE AVAILABILITY

English.

CONTINUING EDUCATION (CE) CREDITS

Detailed information regarding CMEs/CEUs is available in the **ACU Catalog** or on the **CITI Program website**. For more information on how to ensure CE availability for your organization's learners contact **support@citiprogram.org** or (888) 529-5929.

SUMMARY

The ACU series is highly customizable and commonly used to help meet organizational training requirements, particularly when funding agencies also require evidence of animal care and use training. Many organizational administrators have found it helpful to visit the CITI Program's website at least annually to review current content offerings and to consider these in light of the organization's previously selected options. CITI Program's Help Desk is experienced with all of its curricular series, including ACU, and can assist you in configuring content for your learners. Contact the Help Desk at **support@citiprogram.org** or (888) 529-5929.

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