

Survey Report

Teaching Research Ethics Workshop, 1994 and 1995¹

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Introduction. The Teaching Research Ethics Workshop began in 1994 with three years of funding from the U.S. Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Post-secondary Education (FIPSE). For the duration of the FIPSE funding, participation in the workshop was limited to 30 faculty members per year, and the pool of eligible universities was restricted to the members of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation – the Big Ten universities plus the University of Chicago.

When funding from FIPSE ended, the workshop was opened to anyone who was interested in attending, the enrollment was increased to 45, and a fee was initiated to cover expenses.

Evaluations and comments from workshop participants have always been positive. When the fifth anniversary of the first workshop loomed, we thought it would be a good opportunity to try to gauge the workshop's long-term impact. We surveyed the class of 1994 in 1999 and the class of 1995 in 2000.

The response rate for the survey, 62%, is quite good considering the amount of time between the workshop and the survey.

Year	Workshop attendees	# of surveys returned by post office	# of surveys completed and returned	% of surveys completed and returned
1994	26	not recorded	16	62%
1995	29	3	16	62%
Both	55	3	32	62%

Summary. Respondents ranked the nine survey questions from 0 to 5, with 0 = don't know/no opinion, 1 being a low ranking and 5 being a high ranking.

We were pleased to see that well more than half of respondents ranked the following questions 4 or 5 (the scale for these three questions: 1 = no impact . . . 5 = significant impact):

1. How much impact has the workshop had on your teaching *in general*? (58%)
2. How much impact has the workshop had on your teaching *of science*? (66%)
3. How much impact has the workshop had on your teaching *of research ethics*? (88%)

Furthermore, 53% of respondents reported that many or most of the people (students and faculty members) in their department or unit and in their university have been positively affected by

¹ Thanks to John M. Kennedy, Director, Center for Survey Research (<http://www.indiana.edu/~csr/>), Indiana University, for helpful comments in the preparation and analysis of this survey. All errors and shortcomings are my own.

their participation in the workshop (questions four and five).

In addition, nearly half to three quarters of respondents reported that they or their colleagues and students talk about the responsible conduct of research more than they did before the workshop (questions six and seven), and about one-third reported that the atmosphere in their department or unit and/or university was more conducive to the discussion of the responsible conduct of research (questions eight and nine).

Details.

Items marked 0 (don't know, no opinion) are not calculated into the following tables.

For items 1-3, please use the following scale:

0 = don't know/no opinion; 1 = no impact . . . 5 = significant impact

1. How much impact has the workshop had on your teaching *in general*?

Min	Avg	Max	0	1	2	3	4	5	>2	>3
1	3.68	5	3%	6%	10%	26%	26%	32%	84%	58%

2. How much impact has the workshop had on your teaching *of science*?

Min	Avg	Max	0	1	2	3	4	5	>2	>3
1	3.55	5	10%	10%	14%	10%	41%	24%	76%	66%

3. How much impact has the workshop had on your teaching *of research ethics*?

Min	Avg	Max	0	1	2	3	4	5	>2	>3
1	4.38	5	0%	3%	6%	3%	25%	63%	91%	88%

For items 4 and 5, please use the following scale:

0 = don't know/no opinion; 1 = none; 2 = some; 3 = many; 4 = most; 5 = all

4. Aside from yourself, how many people (students and faculty members) *in your department or unit* do you think have been positively affected by your participation in the workshop?

Min	Avg	Max	0	1	2	3	4	5	>2	>3
1	2.64	5	0%	6%	41%	34%	13%	3%	53%	16%

5. Aside from yourself, how many people (students and faculty members) *in your university* do you think have been positively affected by your participation in the workshop?

Min	Avg	Max	0	1	2	3	4	5	>2	>3
1	2.48	5	0%	16%	31%	41%	6%	3%	53%	9%

For items 6-9, please use the following scale:

0 = don't know/no opinion; 1 = strongly disagree . . . 5 = strongly agree

6. I talk with colleagues and students about the responsible conduct of research more than I did before I participated in the workshop.

Min	Avg	Max	0	1	2	3	4	5	>2	>3
1	4.06	5	0%	6%	3%	19%	22%	50%	91%	72%

7. I have observed that my *colleagues and students* talk about the responsible conduct of research more than they did before I participated in the workshop.

Min	Avg	Max	0	1	2	3	4	5	>2	>3
1	3.14	5	14%	14%	18%	25%	25%	18%	68%	43%

8. Due to my participation in the workshop, the atmosphere of my *department or unit* is more conducive to discussion of the responsible conduct of research.

Min	Avg	Max	0	1	2	3	4	5	>2	>3
1	2.81	5	10%	17%	24%	24%	21%	10%	59%	31%

9. Due to my participation in the workshop, the atmosphere of my *university* is more conducive to discussion of the responsible conduct of research.

Min	Avg	Max	0	1	2	3	4	5	>2	>3
1	2.96	5	19%	15%	19%	33%	22%	11%	67%	33%