



► CONGRATULATIONS FROM RACC CHAIR, KATHLEEN TAGGART AND VICE-CHAIR PAMELA TAZIK.....1



► RECERTIFICATION STRATEGIES AND BODY OF KNOWLEDGE HELP CRAS MAKE THE GRADE!2



► INTRODUCING RACC BOARD OF DIRECTORS, KUDOS TO NEWLY MINTED CRAS3

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CRAIN *focus*

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF INDIVIDUAL CERTIFIED RESEARCH ADMINISTRATORS AND PLANTING THE SEEDS FOR A SECURE FUTURE.

Helping you achieve your professional goals

Congratulations to all our new Certified Research Administrators! This achievement speaks volumes about the breadth and depth of your understanding of the complexities of research administration on a broad array of topics. You are a credit to the profession and to your institutions. Until recently, there has been no formal degree seeking program that could serve as the basis for advancing our knowledge and understanding of research administration. As such, most of us have gathered the necessary knowledge and skills through on-the-job training, attending professional meetings, and learning from our mentors and colleagues. The extraordinary effort it takes to gain competency in this very diverse field is documented in your certification. Your perseverance and hard work have paid off. So again, congratulations, and you can now proudly use 'CRA' after your name!

The article on recertification is a very important article for all CRAs to review. It provides numerous options for earning recertification. So even new CRAs who won't formally go through the certification process for five years should start tracking those contact hours now.

As always, please contact us anytime with your questions or suggestions.

Regards,
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Next Exam period is May 2-16, 2009.

*Upcoming 2009 review sessions:
March 20, Univ. of Illinois at Chicago;
March 23, Univ. of California, Riverside;
April 3, Northeast Section SRA, Baltimore.*



Recertification Requirements

The Board of Directors of RACC has recently clarified the continuing educational requirements for recertification. First, all education which is used for the purposes of recertification must be in topics directly pertaining to the profession of research and sponsored programs administration. Second, a continuing education unit is defined as one contact hour; so each contact hour of an educational offering will count as one contact hour for recertification purposes. Last, the number of contact hours required for recertification is being increased and phased in gradually. For those who recertify at June 30 or December 31 through 2009, 40 contact hours within the preceding 5 years will continue to be the requirement. However, after 2009 the contact hours will be as follows:

June 30 and December 31, 2010	60 contact hours
June 30 and December 31, 2011	70 contact hours
June 30 and December 31, 2012	80 contact hours
After 2012	80 contact hours

Recertification Tips and Strategies

There are many ways to earn recertification contact hours

Things to remember: Recertification activities must be related to research administration. Contact hours are earned based on education activity minutes spent or experienced in the research administration areas. Documentation of all contact hours must be available for verification purposes

1) Participate in Research Administration-related professional development activities at national, regional or chapter meetings:

General

Society of Research Administrators' national, regional & chapter meetings
<http://www.srainternational.org>

National Council of University Research Administrators' national & section meetings
<http://www.ncura.edu/content/education/al%5Fprograms/>

Human and Animal Subjects

Public Responsibility in Medicine & Research (PRIM&R)
<http://www.primr.org/Conferences.aspx?id=56>

Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW)
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/worksop.htm>

Agency-specific

National Institutes of Health
<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/seminars.htm>

National Science Foundation
<http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/outreach.jsp>

2) Prepare and present (solely or jointly) on research administration related topics at a professional organization meeting

3) Prepare and present on research administration related topics on your campus (including for-credit courses)

4) Write a research administration-related article for publication and/or prepare and submit an abstract, paper or poster to a professional organization

5) Serve as PI or Co-PI on a grant

6) Take part in a research-administration related webinar

7) Serve as a program reviewer for an internal or external funding program

8) Serve on an RACC exam item review committee

9) Serve on a recognized research organization's committee or board

10) Prepare a written review of research administration related topics

11) Attend research administration-related course(s). Example: NCURA's "A Primer on Clinical Trials," a 6-module online course

12) Attend classes and/or complete a graduate-level certification program in research administration

13) Participate in NCURA's Leadership Development Institute or SRA's Senior Executive Institute or other research administration-related leadership program

14) Participate in institution-wide committee on research administration-related topic at your institution

Body of Knowledge Review Sessions

Each year the RACC leads approximately a dozen Body of Knowledge Review Sessions, one at each of the SRA section meetings, one at the SRA annual conference, one at the NCURA annual conference, and various other sessions which are organized by local groups or organizations.

The purpose of these sessions is to familiarize the attendee with the body of knowledge in the profession of research and sponsored programs administration. This body of knowledge was validated last year when the RACC conducted a job task analysis study of the field.

The course is of interest to anyone who is either a practicing research or sponsored programs administrator, or is considering taking the Certified Research Administrator (CRA) examination. The session walks participants through the body of knowledge outline, giving them resources for additional information on each section of the outline. For those who are planning to take the CRA examination, it affords an opportunity to determine those areas in which they are weak and may wish to concentrate their study efforts.

There are already a number of sessions scheduled for 2009. The registration fee is \$195 and that includes a continental breakfast, a snack in the afternoon (lunch is not provided but there is a break), and all handout materials. Keep checking the RACC website at www.cra-cert.org for locations as they are added. See below.

March 20, 2009
University of Illinois at Chicago
Chicago, IL

March 23
University of California
Riverside, CA

April 3, 2009
Northeast Section Meeting
Sheraton Inner Harbor
Baltimore, MD

April 20, 2009
The Conference Center at Northpointe
Lewis Center (Columbus), OH

May 1, 2009
Midwest Section Meeting
Sheraton Sioux Falls
Sioux Falls, SD

May 16, 2009
Southern Section Meeting
Sheraton Oklahoma City
Oklahoma City, OK

June 13, 2009
Western Section Meeting
Marriott Hotel and Marina
San Diego, California

NCURA : www.ncura.edu

SRA : www.srainternational.org

Research Administrators Certification Council Board of Directors

The RACC Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Kathleen Diaz Taggart, CRA has been elected Chair of the Board for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. Pamela Tazik, CRA has been elected Vice Chair. Renee Vaughan, CRA will continue a second year as Secretary and David Hollingsworth will serve a second year as Treasurer. The entire Board of Directors is:

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CRA DESIGNATION Experience and Discipline



CRA IN FOCUS is a newsletter of the Research Administrators Certification Council for those designated as Certified Research Administrators.

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The Research Administrators Certification Council was formed in 1993 and is an independent non-profit organization. The Council is comprised of active research administrators whose role is to certify that an individual, through experience and testing has the fundamental knowledge necessary to be a professional research or sponsored programs administrator.

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