THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE®

ORS Security Bulletin

September 2026

From the Desk of Denise Spiller, Director Office of Research Security (ORS)

How and when does ORS Verify U.S. Citizenship?

ORS verifies citizenship when someone (faculty, staff, or student) needs access to one of the following, but not limited to, a Technology Control Plan; RCE access; and/or NASA access of any kind.

Personnel Security Clearance Citizenship verification requires a US Passport/Passport Card or an original or certified copy of Birth Certificate. Naturalized citizens must provide documentation of their naturalization.

ORS verifies citizenship with the following documentation: US Passport/Passport Card, Original or certified copy of Birth Certificate, Government Common Access Card (CAC), and/or Star ID (Driver License).





There is a ***difference*** between a U.S. Citizen and a U.S Person (Legal Permanent Resident (LPR) aka **Green card holder**). **Green cards** have an expiration date, so check the date and confirm that it hasn't expired.

U.S. Person - With the appropriate "Need to Know" can access Controlled Unclassified Information and/or Export Control Information.

U.S. Citizen - When applying for a Personnel Security Clearance – you **must be** a U.S. Citizen. This includes Naturalized U.S. Citizens and individuals with a "U.S. Citizen Born Abroad" Certificate.





Controlled Meetings at UAH: What to do?

ORS will need to be notified as far as in advance as possible for controlled meetings that will take place on the UAH campus.

UAH has ***specific areas*** on campus that have been ***approved*** to host the meetings. When a meeting or discussion will involve Export Control, Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) or Classified Information, the Request for Controlled Meeting Kuali Form is required to be submitted to ORS.



Upgrading to SCI Access: What Every Security Clearance Holder Should Know

AUG 02, 2026 | John Berry

Many security clearance holders are excited when they learn that a new position requires access to Sensitive Compartmented Information (SCI). In many cases, obtaining SCI access opens the door to more challenging work, greater responsibility, and additional career opportunities.

What many people do not realize, however, is that obtaining SCI access is often more rigorous than obtaining a Secret or even a Top-Secret security clearance.

After more than 25 years representing security clearance holders and applicants, I have seen many individuals surprised to learn that an SCI nomination can result in additional scrutiny, and, in some cases, affect their existing security clearance.

SCI Is Not a Separate Security Clearance

One of the biggest misconceptions is that SCI is another level of security clearance. It is not.

SCI is a special access authorization that permits an individual to access particularly sensitive intelligence information. To receive SCI access, an individual generally must already possess Top-Secret eligibility and have a demonstrated need to know as part of their official duties.

For this reason, many people refer to their status as TS/SCI, although SCI is technically an access determination rather than a separate clearance.

To read the full article: Upgrading to SCI Access: What Every Security Clearance Holder Should Know

2026 Annual Security Refresher Training

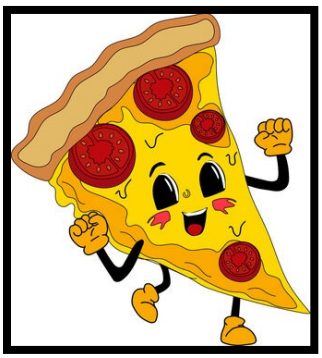
For admission to training events, you must RSVP (using your UAH email account) at the link below which corresponds to your chosen date of attendance.

- **Location:** SMAP Suite C, 5021 Technology Drive; 11:15-11:30 Sign-In and Pizza, 11:30-12:30 Training ***Training starts promptly at 11:30**
  - Tuesday, September 8th
  - Thursday, September 24th

Keep in Mind – One of the requirements to maintain your PCL is to complete Annual Refresher Training. Per the 32 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 117.12(k), contractors will provide all cleared employees with security education and training every 12 months. Refresher training will reinforce the information provided during the initial security briefing, keep cleared employees informed of changes in security regulations, and address issues or concerns identified during contractor self-reviews.

All cleared employees will need to attend an in-person session if they are local to the Huntsville area and within a 2-hour drive.





Please remember to report any suspicious contacts or activity to ORS.

Stay aware and stay safe!

KNOW YOUR SECURITY TEAM!



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