


Name of Policy: Principal investigator's responsibilities on sponsored projects Policy Number: 3364-70-22 Approving Officer: President Responsible Agent: Vice President for Research Scope: All University of Toledo Campuses		 Effective date: September 22, 2025 Original effective date: May 28, 2009	
Keywords:			
	New policy		Minor/technical revision of existing policy
X	Major revision of existing policy		Reaffirmation of existing policy

(A) Policy statement

The process of managing sponsored research awards is a shared responsibility between the principal investigator ("PI"), the staff of the office of research and sponsored programs ("ORSP"), grants accounting, the PI's department head or chair, and dean of the respective college. Each has unique areas of primary responsibility. The PI is the primary individual responsible for initiating a research grant proposal, training or public service project, or other sponsored activity. The PI shares responsibility with co-Investigators ("Co-Is") for ensuring compliance with sponsor and institutional requirements and proper conduct of the project or program. ORSP is responsible for approving the proposed budget, reviewing and approving the award terms and conditions, and authorizing the agreement. The dean and department chair or unit vice president commit their units to support the projects through cost-sharing if needed, and to dedicate space, time, and effort to complete the project.

(B) Purpose of policy

The purpose of this policy is to outline the specific responsibilities of PIs and to

present an overview of project management with special emphasis on the PI's role in sponsored projects management. The role of the ORSP and grants accounting staff in helping the PI meet those responsibilities is outlined.

(C) Definitions

- (1) Sponsored projects – Activities originated or conducted by the University of Toledo (“UToledo”) faculty or staff supported wholly or in part by external restricted funds awarded to UToledo. Definitions of activities are found in rule 3364-70-23 of the Ohio Administrative Code (facilities and administration costs policy), including sponsored instruction and training, organized research, and other sponsored activities.
- (2) Proposal – A response to a request for proposal (solicited or unsolicited) or work utilizing UToledo labor, equipment, facilities, supplies, or procurement.
- (3) Principal Investigator (“PI”) – The principal investigators (“PIs”) are individuals responsible for the design, conduct, and reporting for the sponsored project, including administrative and programmatic reporting (but excluding financial reports). Financial reports, including cost share reports, must be completed by Grants Accounting. Some agencies refer to the PI as project director. PI will be used to refer to project directors in this document.
- (4) In the case of multiple PIs, the first PI listed on the proposal will be considered “primus inter pares” (first among equals) and will be the contact PI for ORSP and Grants Accounting.
- (5) Co-investigator (“Co-I”), co-principal investigator - Some funding agencies allow the submission of proposals with multiple PIs/Co-PIs. Multiple PIs (including co-PIs, if so designated) on a project share the authority and responsibility for leading and directing the project, intellectually and logistically. Early discussions and written agreements delineating responsibilities, roles, and obligations are encouraged. Each investigator (PI, Co-PI, and Co-I) is responsible and accountable to the grantee organization, or, as appropriate, to a collaborating organization, for the proper conduct of the project or program, including, but not limited to, the preparation and submission of required reports and ensuring that expenditures are made consistent with the planned budget. Sponsored research with PIs/Co-PIs and Co-Is who are not UToledo employees must include an executed subrecipient commitment form or other agreement with the PI/Co-I institutions before the proposal is submitted.

- (6) Joint Appointee ("JA") – The JA is an employee of a U.S. national laboratory or other institution or organization whose joint appointment at both institutions has been approved by both their employer and UToledo through an inter-institutional agreement that facilitates such joint appointment.
- (D) Applicability
- (1) Sponsored programs
- All grant, contract, clinical trial, and other and internally or externally sponsored program applications (collectively, "sponsored projects") that have a UToledo faculty/staff member as the PI and are part of that individual's UToledo responsibilities must name UToledo as the grantee/contractor, regardless of the performance site.
- Additional requirements apply to all externally sponsored programs (including non-research programs) for which there is a written application, agreement, or contract with the sponsor which binds UToledo to terms and conditions set forth by the sponsor, and for which any one of the following applies:
- (a) The agreement obligates the PI to sponsored activity that follows a plan or work scope set forth in the proposal, protocol, or agreement, provides for systematic evaluation, or seeks to meet stated performance goals or other activities to meet the obligations of the sponsored activity (i.e. training grants);
 - (b) There is a requirement for UToledo to provide technical or programmatic reports;
 - (c) There is a requirement for UToledo to provide financial accountability, as evidenced by the submission of financial reports to the sponsor, an audit provision, or for return of unexpended funds;
 - (d) There is a requirement that something of value be provided to the

sponsor or that the sponsor is promised any rights, or option thereto, to intellectual property discovered/developed during the program;

- (e) There is a requirement for an institutional commitment to maintain confidentiality of information provided by the sponsor;
- (f) There is a requirement for UToledo to define and/or track personnel effort devoted to the program;
- (g) There is a requirement for UToledo to cost-share any portion of the program costs;
- (h) There is a requirement that a portion of the program be subcontracted to another entity; or
- (i) There is a requirement for assurance of regulatory compliance (e.g., institutional review board ("IRB"), Institutional Biosafety Committee ("IBC"), or institutional animal care and use committee ("IACUC") protocol approval).

(2) Gifts for research and involvement of UToledo foundation

Some awarding agencies may restrict their funding to a 501(C)(3) organization. In those cases, the university of Toledo foundation ("UTF") will assist in preparation, submission and acceptance of those awards. Financial awards or requests to philanthropic foundations and other entities for gifts to support faculty research will be subject to formal endorsement by appropriate UToledo officials, including ORSP and UTF if a 501(C)(3) organization is required to accept the award. Any gift supporting research programs which include human subjects, clinical trials, vertebrate animals, radioisotopes, radiation-generating equipment, lasers, nanotechnology or hazardous materials, must have approved protocols through the appropriate review committees. The ORSP office must review and approve all such projects before proposals are submitted on behalf of UTF. Upon award, funds are transferred to UToledo with oversight by Grants Accounting for all expenditures.

(3) Restrictions

- (a) UToledo may refuse to enter into agreements which define study results as confidential information not to be published or which

convey to the sponsor the right to veto publication or to censure the content of publications.

All proposals for sponsored projects must be reviewed by ORSP prior to submission to any funding source to determine compliance with national security, export control restrictions, and other federal, state, local, sponsor, or UToledo laws, regulations and policies. If ORSP determines that any component of such research may violate federal, state, or local law, or UToledo policies, then UToledo will decline to accept such award.

- (b) It is UToledo policy that sponsored program funding will not be accepted from tobacco companies.
- (c) Faculty and staff are not permitted to conduct research for third parties that utilize UToledo facilities and equipment without a sponsored research or service agreement.
- (d) Faculty members or staff are not to engage in any sponsored activities using UToledo facilities without the formal involvement of ORSP.

(E) PI eligibility

- (1) Each project must have a PI, authorized by UToledo, who will execute the project as outlined in the funded proposal, using sound management techniques. The PI(s) must have the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research.
- (2) Salaried university faculty members or other qualified salaried university contract employees having at least a fifty percent appointment (or signed contract) may serve as PI on sponsored programs agreements. The PI must be in a position to provide direct, personal, day-to-day oversight of activities and personnel associated with the sponsored program. University-designated emeritus faculty may serve as PIs on sponsored program agreements, provided they hold less than a fifty percent appointment/employment with another (non-UToledo) institution or company. Research assistant professors, research associate professors, research professors, and post-doctoral fellows, with a letter of approval from their department chair, are entitled to submit proposals as PI or co-PI for the support of research that may include the faculty member's own

salary.

- (3) JAs at UToledo are entitled to submit proposals and receive awards as PI/Co-PI or key personnel for sponsored research through UToledo under the specific conditions as described herein. A JA may act in his/her university role and lead/participate in a proposal submitted by UToledo when all of the following conditions are present:
- (a) The primary location for the work described in the proposal is UToledo;
 - (b) There is a sufficient basis for the proposal to be submitted by UToledo, including the need for university facilities, capabilities, expertise, field site proximity to the university or ongoing experiments;
 - (c) The JA (and associated students) will perform the work under the proposal at UToledo;
 - (d) The research budget includes partial salary support for the JA in their role as lead/participant in the sponsored research; and
 - (e) The JA must have assigned office and/or laboratory space at UToledo to perform work associated with their effort, as outlined in the proposal. Any alternative workplace must be approved by both the JA's primary employer (i.e. a U.S. national laboratory or other institution) and ORSP, including space in any dedicated collaborative facilities, such as a U.S. government laboratory's joint institute facility.

(F) Multiple principal/co-investigators

It is strongly recommended that a leadership plan is created for proposals that name multiple investigators.

- (1) In the event that the PIs cannot resolve conflicts over an administrative issue, the issue will be presented to the Vice President for Research or his/her designee who will rule on the issue after receiving input from all sides (including department chairs and deans) or refer the issue to an appropriate board such as an *ad hoc* conflicts management committee.

- (2) Any appeals will be resolved by the provost.
- (G) Roles and responsibilities
- (1) Proposal preparation
 - (a) All proposals for extramural funds, contracts, or a commitment of work must be reviewed and approved by all investigators, department/unit chair(s) or dean(s)/head(s) and ORSP prior to proposal submission to the sponsor. Exceptions to this must be approved by the vice president for research or their designee.
 - (b) The PI is responsible for completion and assembly of all proposal components as required by the sponsor. This includes the following:
 - (i) Preparation for the technical proposal including: scope of work, biosketches, facilities and resources and other sponsor requirements.
 - (ii) Identify all PI(s), Co-PI(s), Co-I(s) and key/senior personnel.
 - (iii) Ensure that all personnel complete all training required by the program, sponsor, university policy, or federal regulation.
 - (iv) Prepare "Other Support" documents in accordance with sponsor requirements, and ensure that Senior/Key Personnel fully understand their responsibility to disclose all resources made available to the researcher in support of and/or related to all of their research endeavors, regardless of whether or not they have monetary value and regardless of where the source of support is based..
 - (v) Provide contact information for any subcontractors/ subrecipients to ORSP prior to final budget development.
 - (vi) Prepare proposal budget and submit a draft to ORSP with sufficient time to allow for adjustments by ORSP staff.
 - (a) Identify personnel requirements (i.e. students, post-doctoral fellows, technicians) in conformance with UToledo policies.
 - (b) Include core facility costs (i.e. animal care, instrumentation centers, etc.).
 - (c) In support of strengthening the interface between faculty research and graduate education, the college of graduate studies may provide instructional fees for graduate students supported by external grants. In cases where the external sponsor supports graduate student tuition, matching support of graduate student tuition may be provided at the discretion of the college of graduate

studies.

- (vii) Identify and address space/facilities requirements with endorsement/approval by chair(s) and dean(s).
 - (viii) Prepare and submit human and animal research protocols, as needed. Some sponsors require this prior to submission.
 - (ix) When applicable, create safe and inclusive environment plan(s) to comply with terms and conditions of the award or other sponsor requirements related to off-site or off-campus research or project activities. Implement the plan and maintain documentation of compliance if the proposal is awarded.
- (c) Timelines established by ORSP for proposal submission
- (i) Proposal with no subrecipient(s) - The PI should notify ORSP of intention to submit a proposal at least ten business days before the submission deadline.
 - (ii) Proposal with subrecipient(s) - The PI should notify ORSP of intention to submit a proposal at least fifteen business days before the submission deadline.
 - (iii) The proposal, final budget, and other required documents should be routed for internal approval no later than five business days prior to the submission due date.
 - (iv) It is strongly recommended that near final drafts of all documents are uploaded to ORSP or sponsor sites at least two days before the proposal submission deadline to ensure PIs have completed the proposal in accordance with sponsor requirements. Final documents should be uploaded one business day before the submission deadline date.
- (d) ORSP responsibilities in proposal preparation include the following:
- (i) Contact the sponsored program office at the subcontractors/ subrecipients institution to request administrative materials including subrecipient commitment form, budget and scope of work.
 - (ii) Prepare proposal budget from PI's draft in conformance with UToledo policies and sponsor requirements.
 - (iii) Provide information and assistance in completing administrative information.

- (iv) Commit ORSP cost sharing funds if appropriate and approved by the Vice President for Research.
- (v) Determine if PIs, Co-Is, and key personnel are in compliance with conflict of interest requirements.
- (vi) Provide institutional signature and submit/release completed proposal to sponsor.

(2) Award acceptance

Grants or agreements for research, including clinical trials or any other programs involving UToledo faculty must be made between UToledo and the sponsor pursuant to rule 3364-40-08 of the Ohio Administrative Code (delegation of signatory authority for documents that bind the university). The Vice President for Research is designated as the signing authority for accepting and approving all sponsored program awards on behalf of UToledo. Investigators are not authorized to apply for awards or accept awards or funds on their own behalf or on behalf of UToledo.

- (a) All contracts/agreements issued to UToledo by a funding sponsor, including those which involve a contract or a subcontract to another institution or other organization must be reviewed, negotiated and signed by ORSP pursuant to rule 3364-70-23 of the Ohio Administrative Code (facilities and administrative (F&A) costs for sponsored research and programs).
- (b) If the award utilizes an outside consultant, the consultant agreement must follow rule 3364-25-44 of the Administrative Code (independent contractor status).
- (c) All procurement of goods, equipment or outside purchased services must follow rule 3364-40-15 of the Ohio Administrative Code (procurement), which includes compliance with uniform guidance procurement requirements for sponsored programs.
- (d) All awards must be set up in UToledo restricted, sponsored program accounts monitored by UToledo Grants Accounting.

(3) Project performance and management

UToledo and the PI are legally and financially responsible and accountable to the sponsor for the performance of the activity funded and the proper use of funds. The sponsored programs process is a joint effort between the PIs and UToledo. The PIs' responsibilities may be divided into two related but distinctly different sets of activities: those activities involving the management of the work of the project, and responsible spending of project funds. While the work of the project should drive the financial activities, sound management practices in both arenas are required. The financial stewardship of sponsored research funds is a shared responsibility with other UToledo entities, among them ORSP, Grants Accounting, and the PIs' and Co-Is' departments.

- (a) It is the PI's responsibility to ensure that expenditures are allowable, reasonable, necessary, and reimbursable by the sponsor. The PI must ensure that project funds are managed efficiently and effectively within approved budgets. Any expenses not reimbursed by the funding agency, determined as unallowable, over-expended, or for non-performance, will be moved to the department account.
- (b) The PI is responsible for all actions required to manage and complete the scientific and programmatic aspects of the sponsored project and is responsible for project performance as designated in sponsor agreements/contracts.
- (c) The PI(s), Co-I(s), and key personnel must comply with all the terms and conditions of their awards. This may include, but is not limited to, restrictions imposed due to export controls, compliance with technology control or other management plans, adherence to professional standards of UToledo, and assuring work environments are safe and conducive to high quality work.
- (d) PI(s), Co-I(s) and key personnel must comply with existing UToledo policies prohibiting harassment and discrimination, as well as prohibitions of inappropriate conduct as defined by UToledo or sponsor standards. Inappropriate conduct may include actions or conduct that disparages or demonstrates hostility or aversion towards a person that could reasonably be perceived as disruptive, disrespectful, offensive, or inappropriate in the workplace.
- (e) The PI is responsible for managing the project in compliance with

the most restrictive of the award requirements, UToledo policies, and state of Ohio ethics laws.

- (f) The PI initiates hiring or assignment processes and approves the selection or appointment of individuals to the project consistent with the statement of work (or other proposed research plan), the budget of the project and in compliance with personnel restrictions imposed by the sponsor. Hiring of personnel is a shared responsibility with the PI, the department, and the UToledo Human Resources Department. Appropriate UToledo hiring policies must be followed in seeking or presenting offers to personnel for work on the project.
- (g) All invoicing is the responsibility of Grants Accounting and not the PI, the PI's department, or the PI's college. The PI is responsible for notifying Grants Accounting when a deliverable has been met and needs to be invoiced.
- (h) When necessary, the PI initiates programmatic changes to the project in consultation with all faculty investigators, and, working with ORSP, obtains sponsor approval, as required.
- (i) The PI ensures the responsible conduct of the research pursuant to rule 3364-70-02 of the Ohio Administrative Code (responsible conduct of scholarship and research). This includes data management as required by sponsoring agencies, publishers, and as consistent with practices within the discipline.
- (j) The PI ensures the completion, accuracy and timeliness of interim and final programmatic (technical) reports. It is the shared responsibility of the PI and department to ensure sponsor required progress reports are submitted in a timely fashion.
 - (i) If a PI is unable to complete a report, the department chair and/or dean become responsible for completion.
 - (ii) If reporting is delinquent, University Research Funding Opportunities ("URFO") Awards may be withheld, suspended, or voided.
 - (iii) If reporting is severely delinquent, the Vice President for Research may place a hold on processing new proposal submissions, place a hold on processing newly issued awards, and/or place a hold on charging all active accounts in which the PI is listed until all reports have been submitted and accepted by the sponsor(s).

- (k) Subcontract document(s) must be prepared and approved by ORSP. The PI monitors performance of subcontractors and collaborators at non-UToledo entities.
- (l) The PI agrees to abide by current UToledo policies on the use of human subjects/ animals in research, recombinant DNA, infectious agents, radioactive materials, controlled substances, and hazardous materials. The PI adheres to approved research protocols and policies, and notifies the appropriate office if changes are made to protocols.
- (m) The PI is responsible for the initial and annual filings of financial disclosures for all participants on the project as defined in C.F.R. 42 part 50, subpart F. The PI is responsible for notification of ORSP when there are changes in the status of his/her financial interests or conflicts of interest.
- (n) The PI is responsible for ensuring completion of effort reporting for project participants as required by UToledo policy and applicable sponsoring agency policies.
- (o) After completion of a project, ownership of capital equipment will be assigned according to sponsor agreements/contracts
 - (i) Grants Accounting will notify general accounting/asset management, working with the PI, to assemble a final inventory of equipment paid for or contributed to the award by the sponsor.
 - (ii) Grants Accounting will validate final award documents with the sponsor and determine the appropriate process for disposition of equipment (vested to UToledo, retained for future award work by the PI, transferred to another department at UToledo, or returned to the sponsor).
 - (a) If the sponsor requires equipment return, Grants Accounting will notify the PI and general accounting/property management, who will ensure proper shipping to the sponsor.
 - (b) Disposal of other equipment/property shall be in accordance with rule 3364-40-18 of the Ohio Administrative Code (capitalized equipment) or the UToledo surplus property/property control procedure.

<p>Approved by:</p> <p><u>/s/</u></p> <p>James Paul Holloway President</p> <p>Date: September 22, 2025</p> <p>Review/revision completed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice President for Research • Research Council 	<p>Policies superseded by this policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3364-70-00 effective April 1, 2011 <p>Original effective date: May 28, 2009</p> <p>Review/revision date: November, 2018 January 3, 2019 October 19, 2020 February 7, 2025 September 22, 2025</p> <p>Next review date: September 22, 2028</p>
--	---

References

[3364-70-18 Faculty/Staff Compensation and Budgeting for Sponsored Programs](#)

[3364-40-15 Procurement policy](#)

[3364-50-01 The University of Toledo Title IX Policy](#)

[3364-50-02 Nondiscrimination](#)

[3364-50-03 Nondiscrimination on the basis of disability - Americans with Disabilities Act compliance](#)

[National Institutes of Health Supporting a Safe and Respectful Workplace at Institutions that Receive NIH Funding | Grants & Funding](#)

[3364-40-18 Capitalized Equipment](#)