

Indirect Cost (IDC) Recovery

Policy

[Policy 27025 – Facilities and Administrative Costs](#)

Memo: University of Missouri Position on Industry-Sponsored Projects and Intellectual Property (attached, pp. 3-4)

Forms

[Grant Fact Sheet](#)

[Request for University Contribution of Indirect Costs \(RUC\)](#)

Overview

Funds provided by outside sponsors of research, instruction, public service, or other services must include an appropriate amount to offset Indirect Costs (IDC) incurred by the University. Indirect Costs must be charged at a rate not less than the predetermined approved schedule of rates negotiated with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on a periodic basis. Refer to the [Grant Fact Sheet](#) for current applicable rates. With the exception of commercial, industrial, or for-profit sponsors (refer to section on Industry-Sponsored Projects below), the University will accept a reduced Indirect Cost Rate if the outside sponsor's limitation is available as published documentation in a public domain applicable to all awardees. When the sponsor is a Foundation or Charitable Trust which provides funds for research, instruction, public service or other services without a publicly available published reduction in Indirect Costs, acceptance for any reduction is obtained from Director Sponsored Programs Administration. Any exception to this policy requires the concurrence of the divisional Chairman, divisional Dean, and approval of the Vice Chancellor of Research, or their designated representative, by approval of a [Request for University Contribution of Indirect Costs \(RUC\)](#).

On- and Off-Campus Rates Definitions

The classification of on- or off-campus is solely for the purpose of applying the correct Indirect Costs (IDC) rate.

If a project is located in leased space that is sufficiently far removed from the campus to prohibit the normal use of University facilities and the lease is a direct charge to the project, then the project is considered "off campus." If the project is not charged directly for the lease cost and the lease is a part of the University's Indirect Costs (IDC) rate, or the project is located within a reasonable distance of University facilities, then the project is considered "on campus."

Note: Grants, Contracts, or Awards with the Truman Memorial Veterans' Hospital (VA) as a performance site are exempt from the off-campus requirement to be sufficiently far removed from the campus in order to determine on- or off- campus classification for the purpose of applying the correct Indirect Cost rate.

Projects Conducted Partially Off Campus

Grant or Contract Award (Annual Level) of \$100,000 or Greater in Modified Total Direct Costs.

Projects with total annual modified total direct costs (MTDC) of \$100,000 or more which are partially performed off campus are prorated between on-campus and off-campus components for indirect cost rate application purposes in instances where the lesser component is greater than 20% of the MTDC of the project. If 80% or greater of the MTDC are determined to be on-campus costs, the entire project is charged the on-campus rate. If 80% or greater of the MTDC is determined to be off-

campus costs, the entire project is charged the off-campus rate.

Grant or Contract Award (Annual Level) Under \$100,000 in Modified Total Direct Costs. Projects with total annual MTDC of \$100,000 or less which are partially performed off campus are not apportioned between their on-campus and off-campus components for Indirect Cost rate purposes. If 50% or more of the project's MTDC are to be expended on campus, the entire project is charged the on-campus Indirect Cost rate. If more than 50% of MTDC are to be expended off campus, the entire project is charged the off-campus Indirect Cost rate.

Agriculture Field Trials, Seed Trials, or Animal Product Trials.

For sponsored projects in support of the University's agriculture service mission; field trials, seed trials and animal product trials, as defined below, may apply the pre-determined indirect cost rate for *Other Sponsored Activities (OSA)* as per the Indirect Cost Rate Agreement in effect at the time of proposal submission or receipt of an award. The added indirect cost referenced in the section below titled *Industry-Sponsored Projects* does not affect or apply to the trials in this section, as it has been established that the OSA rate alone will apply to these selected sponsored trials. A [Request for University Contribution of Indirect Cost \(RUC\)](#) is not required when applying the OSA rate to these research projects.

Field Trials and *Seed Trials* are defined as the evaluation of agricultural materials where the sponsor will provide the material and the protocol used in the trial.

Animal Product Trials are defined as the evaluation of animal feed or materials where the sponsor will provide the feed or materials and the evaluation protocol used in the trial.

Industry-Sponsored Projects

When a commercial, industrial, or for-profit firm is the sponsor, the University of Missouri-Columbia (MU) policy, in compliance with University Policy 27025, *requires* Indirect Costs to be charged at the applicable Indirect Cost rate indicated on the current schedule of negotiated rates as reflected on the [Grant Fact Sheet](#). When a commercial or industrial firm requires rights in data to the exclusion of the University and/or claims ownership rights to intellectual property developed by the University under a project, Indirect Costs will be charged at the negotiated rate plus five (5) percent. Exceptions to this policy require the concurrence of the divisional Chairman, divisional Dean, and approval of the Vice Chancellor for Research, or their designated representative, by approval of a [Request for University Contribution of Indirect Costs](#).

Clinical Trials

Refer to the Clinical Trials section of the [Sponsored Program Procedure Guide](#) for guidance on [Clinical Trials Indirect Cost Recovery](#).

Need Help?

Contact OSPA at muresearchospa@missouri.edu or 882-7560.

Related Topics

[Intellectual Property](#)

[Clinical Trials: Indirect Cost Recovery](#)

Creation Date

05/01/2014

Last Revision Date

07/08/2025

Sponsored Programs Administration
601 Turner Ave | Columbia, MO 65211
573-882-7560 | grantsdc@missouri.edu



UNIVERSITY *of* MISSOURI

OFFICE OF RESEARCH

May 8, 2014

Dear Colleagues,

Today we announce a change in the University's position regarding intellectual property (IP) that could result from industry-funded research. For the last thirty years, the University of Missouri, like other universities, has taken the stance of avidly guarding the ultimate ownership of IP that might be generated in the course of an industry-funded project. Analysis shows that much less IP is generated in such projects when compared to projects that are funded by other sources, especially federal agencies. Experience also teaches that, in many such cases, faculty prefer to have the funding in hand rather than to lose funding due to failed negotiations over potential IP that may not come to fruition. Funding to support students, postdoctoral fellows, laboratory expenses, and faculty effort has a real and present value that goes to the core of the University's missions in education and research. This present value is often worth more than the hypothetical value of IP that is as yet not created and may never be created.

With this in mind, the University will relax its stance on the disposition of potential IP from industry-funded research. We will empower faculty to guide the University in making such decisions. I very much hope that this position will lead to smoother negotiations, faster response times from my office, and shorter contracts.

The University will continue to preserve publications rights and the ongoing use of your work for future research; we will not warrant our research under any circumstances. Publication rights and other key contract terms can sometimes be problematic with certain companies, and when they are, negotiation times inevitably increase. However, with the obstacle of potential IP ownership off the table, usually these other issues do not arise with reputable companies.

When the investigator and University give up IP rights, an additional five percent (5%) INDIRECT COSTS will be assessed on those line items of the budget that can be charged INDIRECT COSTS. This is a typical practice utilized to close the gap between a university's nominal facilities and administrative (INDIRECT COSTS) rate and actual INDIRECT COSTS costs. Experience teaches that most companies are willing to pay this small extra increment for rights to IP.

So how will this work? We do have to add a form in order to implement this process, and that form is attached for you to peruse. When you fill out this form, it will indicate to staff in OSPA and OTMIR how you wish to proceed. You now have three options:

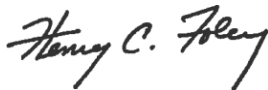
- If you, the faculty member, do not want to protect your rights as an inventor and you do not want the University to negotiate for ownership of any invention that may result from the work, then you should indicate such on the form, and we will not negotiate for the ownership of IP. You might decide to choose this option when you are doing fundamental research and when you are seeking to develop a relationship with researchers at the company.

- If, on the other hand, you, the faculty member, do indeed want to protect your rights as an inventor and you do want the University to negotiate for ownership of any invention that may result from the work, then we will do that for you. This may be a good stance to take if you are working in an area of high, applied impact that may produce an invention or inventions of value.
- If you, the faculty member, are just not sure of which you want to do, then you should call the Office of Technology Management and Industry Relations (OTMIR) to have a discussion of the matter. They will walk you through the issues and help you find answers for your particular case.

Let's also be clear on some other issues: We cannot and will not relax our stance on ownership of IP on federally-funded research. Federally-funded research is governed by the Bayh-Dole Act, which has had a hugely positive effect on innovation in this country. Also, if the company is passing through federal funds to the University, we have to treat that funding as if it came directly from the federal agency (though the company may argue otherwise). Thus, we cannot relinquish control of IP ownership.

I hope that this will smooth the flow of funding to those faculty who seek to work with industry and that the new approach will lead to better industry-university relations in the present and future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Henry C. Foley". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Henry C. Foley, Ph.D. Senior
Vice Chancellor for Research
and Graduate Studies.

Attachment