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ORSP Newsletter

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THE ORSP **CONNECT**

Research Administration Updates

In the
QUEUE

NSF Announces October 23 Change

Starting Oct 23, 2023, PIs and other senior personnel are REQUIRED to use SciENCv to prepare the Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending (Other) Support documents. Researchers are strongly encouraged to transition now and refrain from using old fillable PDFs.

If you are a researcher without an [ORCID](#) ID, you are encouraged to create one, which can then be linked to SciENCv.

Refer to *Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide* Chapters [D.2.h.\(i\)](#) and [II.D.2.h.\(ii\)](#), as well as the NSF [biographical sketch](#) and [current and pending \(other\) support](#) pages for more information.

SciENCv Training Resources

[SciENCv help guide with NSF-specific section \(with screenshots and step-by-step instructions\)](#)

[SciENCv demo recording from June 2023 NSF Grants Conference](#)
(demo starts at the 23:49 minute marker)

[Using SciENCv Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[NSF Biographical Sketch video tutorial](#)

[NSF Current & Pending \(Other\) Support video tutorial](#)

It is presumed that NIH will follow the NSF in mandating the use of the SciENCv bio-sketches in the near future. The generation of NIH-approved biosketches via SciENCv is already available:

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>.

There are signs that all federal agencies (DOD/DOE/USDA, etc.) may also adopt this requirement at some point.

SciENCv NIH & NSF Biosketches

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Meet ORSP

Jacob Raggio

Awards Analyst
ORSP Sponsored Programs team (SPA)

Learn About the Duties of Awards
Analyst, Jacob Raggio



Research SUCCESS

Direct Vs. Indirect Costs

What is the difference between direct costs and indirect costs, and why should an investigator care?

When developing a proposal budget, you'll need to account for both direct and indirect costs. Your assigned Research Administrator can assist you, using ORSP's budget templates that do much of the work.

Direct costs on grants are those costs that can be directly assigned to grant activities relatively easily with a high degree of accuracy. These may include compensation of employees who work on that award, their related fringe benefit costs, and the costs of materials and other items of expense incurred for award. All costs directly charged to the award should be reasonable, allowable, and allocable.

Universities also incur other operational costs for facilities (such as heating and cooling) and administrative infrastructure (such as accounting and copier service contracts) that, while necessary to support research and education, are not so easily assignable to any given project. The federal government allows grantees to recoup some of these **indirect costs** by applying a negotiated indirect cost rate to the modified total direct costs, or MOTD (total direct costs minus things like equipment and tuition) to determine the indirect costs for the project, which are added to the total direct costs to get the final project budget. However, this allowance comes with a condition, which is that the university must treat all sponsors consistently when it comes to charging these indirect costs; that means that if the corporation or foundation that wants to grant you money for a project doesn't have a policy against paying indirect costs to any grantee, then they must pay us our

If indirect costs are not for direct project expenses, where do they go?

At UM, 10% of indirect costs are returned to the investigator(s) in an **overhead** account they can use to fund anything that UM can spend money on. These funds are separate from the project, and therefore not subject to the sponsored project's reasonability, allowability, and allocability tests. You may hear investigators refer to their overhead account as their slush fund or rainyday fund. If you are not sure whether you have an overhead account, or how to check your overhead account balance, contact your assigned Research Administrator.

Another 45% of overhead recoveries are distributed, in some locally negotiated combination, to the investigator(s)' home department(s), center(s), and/or school(s). These funds can be used to support research and scholarship at the discretion of those units' leaders.

The final 45% goes to the central administration, where it is shared by VCAF (for institutional facilities costs) and ORSP (for research development/administration costs).

Did you
KNOW?

F&A Rate Increase

The organized research F&A rate increases from 46% to 46.5% effective July 1, 2024. ORSP had initially been incorporating this half percent increase in proposal budgets for awards with periods of availability that spanned into FY 2025.

Last week, it became known that **the F&A rate change will require new accounts for FY 2025 for every existing award subject to F&A.** This change has the potential to add additional administrative burdens to UM researchers and staff. To mitigate this risk and to allow the work of research to continue without additional tracking, updates, Eform Maintenance and more, the ORSP Interim Vice Chancellor, Dr. Greg Easson, approved award budgets to continue at the lower rate with any incremental funds in subsequent years being subject to the new rate of 46.5%.

Be advised of this rate increase as you are preparing future proposal budgets.

Access the Faculty and Staff ORSP Quick Start Guide

Quick Start

Want your team to be highlighted in the research success section?



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Have questions for ORSP? Email research@olemiss.edu

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