F&A Rate Decision Tool

This tool is to assist departments with understanding the appropriate rate to apply to research agreements. DSP recognizes that special circumstances sometimes occur and will work with you to apply the correct rate for your situation. If you have questions or if you are facing a new situation, please contact us at 335-2123 or dsp@uiowa.edu BEFORE submitting a budget to a sponsor.

* The Prime Sponsor is where the funding originates, regardless of any intermediate sponsors. The nature of the Prime Sponsor’s funding opportunity dictates how we categorize funding types.

** Published F&A rate: This refers to a website or other formal publication by Sponsor indicating the maximum F&A they will pay. Documentation does not include email from Sponsor. Does not apply to for-profit Sponsors.

Not all projects sponsored by pharmaceutical companies qualify as clinical trials. Organized Research rates apply in most situations.

State of Iowa: When funding flows from the prime sponsor through the State of Iowa and eligibility guidelines allow UI to apply directly, the University’s rate applicable to the prime sponsor’s funding opportunity will apply. Some exceptions apply where an 8% F&A rate is allowed if certain conditions are met.

Organized Research includes all externally funded research activities, both basic and applied, and all development activities; includes activities related to the training of individuals in research techniques where such activities utilize the same facilities as other research and development activities. (This is most common.)

Basic or Applied Research:
54.5% for awards starting 07/01/2019

Instruction includes all activities related to teaching and training of UI students or staff, except for research training. Includes coursework that is offered for credit toward a degree or certificate, on a non-credit basis, or through regular academic departments or by separate divisions, such as summer session. (This is not common)

Instruction: 45%

Corporate and Industry Sponsored Clinical Trials
Corporate and industry sponsored clinical trials are studies funded by a corporation and which involve evaluation of a technology or product, including Phase 1-3 clinical investigations, Phase 4 postmarketing studies, IDE investigations, and postmarket surveillance studies involving human subjects. UI’s F&A rate for all industry-sponsored clinical trials is 30% of total direct costs (TDC). If the industry sponsor insists on paying a lower F&A rate (for example, 20%), 30% will still be assessed on the funds. The investigator must decide whether the research can be performed for the amount that is available for direct costs.

Please Note: not all projects funded by pharmaceutical companies qualify as Corporate and Industry Sponsored Clinical Trials. Does not include Clinical Trials with the Federal Government as Prime Sponsor, or a collaboration between the Federal Govt and a for-profit company.

Corporate Funded Clinical Trials: 30%

Off-Campus (RESEARCH): 26% for awards starting 07/01/2019

Off-Campus (OTHER SPONSORED ACTIVITIES): 17% for awards starting 07/01/2019

Miscellaneous: 25% for awards starting 07/01/2019

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