

## 15.01 Research Agreements



Revised [May 7, 2024](#) (MO -2024)  
Next Scheduled Review: May 7, 2029  
Click to view [Revision History](#).

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### Policy Summary

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This policy provides the vice chancellor for research (VCR) and the chief executive officers (CEOs) of The Texas A&M University System (system) and its respective members with a structure for conducting research and defines the VCRs', CEOs' and respective members' research-related duties and administrative responsibilities.

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### Policy

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#### 1. RESEARCH POLICY

- 1.1 The VCR must submit for chancellor approval the process for administering sponsored research projects funded by federal, state, commercial or non-profit funds in accordance with System Policy *15.04, Sponsored Research Services*.
  - 1.1.1 Research proposals, grants, and contracts must be routed through, approved and administered by the member that is the primary employer of the lead principal investigator (PI) unless the CEO of such member authorizes routing through a different member except as provided under Section 1.1.6.
  - 1.1.2 When the lead PI has one or more joint appointments with other members, that lead PI's research proposals, grants, and contracts must be routed through, approved and administered by the member that is the lead PI's primary employer, unless Sections 1.1.3, 1.1.4, 1.1.5, or 1.1.6 apply.
  - 1.1.3 All research proposals, grants, and contracts originating with a lead PI who is a faculty member at Texas A&M University (Texas A&M) and whose primary employer is the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences must be routed through, approved and administered by Texas A&M AgriLife Research (AgriLife Research). In cases where AgriLife Research is not eligible to administer the grant or contract, or at AgriLife Research's election, the grant or contract is submitted and administered by Texas A&M. Indirect cost return for these grants and contracts follow the guidelines as agreed to by Texas A&M, AgriLife Research and Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station (TEES). AgriLife Research obtains approval from Texas A&M for proposals, grants and contracts focused on non-research objectives and committing Texas A&M to deliverables (e.g., coursework and degree development).
  - 1.1.4 All research proposals, grants and contracts originating with a lead PI who is a faculty member at Texas A&M and whose primary employer is the College of Engineering must be routed through, approved and administered by TEES. In cases where TEES is not eligible to administer the grant or contract, or at TEES'

election, the grant or contract is submitted and administered by Texas A&M. Indirect cost return for these grants and contracts follow the guidelines as agreed to by Texas A&M, TEES and AgriLife Research. TEES obtains approval from Texas A&M for proposals, grants and contracts focused on non-research objectives and committing Texas A&M to deliverables (e.g., coursework and degree development).

1.1.5 All research proposals, grants, and contracts originating with a lead PI who is a faculty member at Texas A&M and whose primary employer is the School of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences must be routed through, approved and administered by either AgriLife Research or Texas A&M as determined by the Dean of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, at the dean's discretion as confirmed in writing. Indirect cost return for these grants and contracts follow the guidelines as agreed to by Texas A&M, AgriLife Research and TEES.

1.1.6 All research proposals, grants, and contracts, regardless of the primary employer of the lead PI, must be routed through, approved and administered by the System Office of Research if:

a majority of research activities, as determined by the VCR, will occur in and/or utilize System Offices facilities or resources managed by departments or organizational units under the System Office of Research. This includes, but is not limited to, direct charges for time and effort being budgeted for employees whose primary employer is System Offices, and System Offices is providing a majority of the cost share (cash or in-kind contributions).

Indirect cost return for these grants and contracts follows the guidelines as agreed to by the VCR and System members.

1.2 The procedures required by Section 1.1 exclude the administration of research projects or research-related activities not required to be administered by Sponsored Research Services under Section 5, System Policy *15.04* (collectively "Excepted Research Projects or Research-Related Activities"). Each member CEO must submit for chancellor approval guidelines for administering Excepted Research Projects or Research-Related Activities.

1.3 Each CEO must ensure that all research conducted is consistent with the mission of the member and the system.

1.4 Each CEO must ensure that all research conducted at the member complies with all applicable system, local, state and federal policies, regulations and guidelines. Furthermore, each CEO must ensure that member employees follow the research compliance requirements as set forth in system policy. The VCR, Texas A&M, AgriLife Research and TEES must coordinate their efforts as they relate to Texas A&M faculty performing under grants or contracts awarded to System Offices, AgriLife Research and TEES, to enhance and appropriately manage research compliance.

1.5 Annually, the chancellor must receive a report from the VCR detailing ongoing sponsored research projects and a report from each CEO detailing ongoing Excepted Research Projects or Research-Related Activities.

1.6 The VCR must establish procedures to ensure that sponsored projects are administered in compliance with the sponsor's applicable policies and regulations. Noncompliance with the sponsor's applicable policies and regulations must be reported to and be resolved by the appropriate CEO or designee, in consultation with the VCR.

## 2. INITIATION OF AGREEMENTS

It is the policy of the system to cooperate whenever possible, within the limits of its means and responsibilities, with individuals, government agencies, corporations or other outside parties in the solution of problems of mutual interest. The initiative for effecting such cooperative arrangements, including the establishment of grants-in-aid for the support of research work, may be assumed either by a member or by an outside party.

## 3. CONTROL OF RESEARCH PRODUCTS

Except as otherwise described in System Policy *17.01, Intellectual Property Management and Commercialization*, the results of investigations by, or under the direction of, the research or teaching staff of the system during the course of their regularly assigned duties becomes the property of the system and is so used and controlled as to produce the greatest benefit to the public and to the system.

## 4. ADVERTISING POLICY

If the results expected from a cooperative undertaking are such that the outside party desires to use the name of the system or a member in its advertising, provisions for such use must be included in a written agreement. Advertising referring to these results must be so worded as not to imply the endorsement by any member or the system of a specific product or producer and must reflect credit upon the system, its personnel and its activities.

## 5. RELATIONSHIPS WITH DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATIONS

Relationships with development foundations and similar support organizations are described in System Policy *60.01, Relationships with Affiliated Organizations*.

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## **Related Statutes, Policies, or Requirements**

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[System Regulation 15.01.01, Sponsored Agreements – Research and Other](#)

[System Regulation 15.01.04, Time and Effort Reporting](#)

[System Policy 15.04, Sponsored Research Services](#)

[System Regulation 15.99.01, Use of Human Subjects in Research](#)

[System Regulation 15.99.03, Ethics in Research, Scholarship and Creative Work](#)

[System Policy 17.01, Intellectual Property Management and Commercialization](#)

[System Regulation 21.05.01, Gifts, Donations, Grants and Endowments](#)

[System Policy 60.01, Relationships with Affiliated Organizations](#)

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## **Member Rule Requirements**

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A rule is not required to supplement this policy.

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## **Contact Office**

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Research  
(979) 458-6000