

Augusta University

Policy Library

Clearing Unallowable Expenses Policy

Policy Manager: Sponsored Programs Administration

POLICY STATEMENT

Principal Investigators (PIs) are ultimately responsible for the financial management and technical project management of sponsored projects they oversee. Accordingly, Principal Investigator(s) are required to appropriately manage the funds received from sponsors. Each department (via the PI, Departmental Manager or Chair) must also monitor expenditures on sponsored projects. If a sponsored project has expenditures that are unallowable on a sponsored account (e.g. overspent budget or budget category, expensed items that are not allowable by the sponsor, or expenses that are inappropriate to the project), it is the Principal Investigator's/department's fiduciary responsibility to move those expenditures off the sponsored project promptly.

Sponsored funds can be used to defray most, if not all, of the costs of doing research and other sponsored activity. It is imperative, however, to abide by guidelines that specify those expenses that should be listed as direct costs on federal awards, those that should be reimbursed through indirect cost recovery, and those that are not eligible for reimbursement. When the Augusta University Enterprise accepts sponsored funding, it agrees to adhere to the financial requirements specified in the terms and conditions of a grant or contract. Ensuring that charges are in compliance with the sponsored award's terms and conditions is a critically important aspect of the Division of Sponsored Program Administration (DSPA).

Expenditures are reviewed using the standards set forth by: 2 CFR Part 200: Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, hereinafter referred to as the Uniform Guidance (UG), Augusta University policies and procedures, State laws and regulations, and any sponsor specific terms pertaining to the particular award. The assessment and determination of the appropriateness for listing an expense as a direct charge on a sponsored project entails consideration of the expenditures as being: allowable, allocable, reasonable, necessary, and consistent with the scope of work and terms of the award. Therefore, the Principal Investigator/department should make every effort to spend within the guidelines and approved budget. If an overdraft or expenditure occurs that is not allowable according to the standards set forth in applicable regulatory guidelines, the expenditures are not allowed to remain as expenditures to the award.

AFFECTED STAKEHOLDERS

Indicate all entities and persons within the Enterprise that are affected by this policy:

- Alumni Faculty Graduate Students Health Professional Students
- Staff Undergraduate Students Vendors/Contractors Visitors
- Other:

Office of Legal Affairs Use Only

Executive Sponsor: VP, Sponsored Programs Administration

Next Review: 8/2027

DEFINITIONS

Principal Investigator (PI): Individual officially responsible for the conduct of a sponsored project or the individual officially responsible for the conduct of any funded project. On research projects, the PI is usually a faculty member; on other types of awards, the PI may have an administrative appointment. The PI is always an investigator

Investigator: Principal Investigator and any other person, regardless of their position or title, who is responsible for the design conduct, or reporting of a sponsored research award or proposal for such funding

Cost Transfer: Moves an expenditure/credit from one project or funding source to another account, after the fact.

Cost Accounting Standards (CAS): Ensures that costs charged to a sponsored agreement are allowable, allocable, and reasonable as detailed in DSPA's *Direct Charging Policy*

Unallowable Expenditures: Expenditures in excess of the budget or that are not allowable according to the regulatory guidelines. Unallowable expenditures also include expenditures in excess of the total payments received (this could occur on milestone and/or clinical trial-based awards). While there may be programmatic and specific circumstances which justify the costs outlined below, these costs are generally questioned, and specific approval from DSPA and/or the federal agency may be necessary before the cost is incurred.

Unallowable Administrative, Operational, and Research Related Costs

- Office supplies, pens, paper, basic software, etc.
- Local telephone and fax; telephone line and equipment charges, cell phones
- Postage, express mail (Freight to ship component parts necessary for the research is allowable **200.473**)
- Hazardous waste disposal
- Proposal preparation costs **200.460**
- Costs of reprints of articles on the research funded by the grant are allowable; other printing costs may or may not be allowable depending on the circumstances
- The costs of memberships in business, technical, and professional organizations are generally only allowed as indirect/F&A costs, meaning it is factored into AU's indirect/F&A rate, and these costs are generally not charged directly to sponsored awards, unless specifically mentioned in the proposal's budget or other approved budget from the sponsor.
- Books and periodicals (these are typically considered indirect costs supported by the institutions library)
- Dues and memberships **200.454**
- Photocopying

Miscellaneous Unallowable Expenses

- Alumnae/i activities **200.424**

- Commencement and convocation costs **200.429**
- Organized fundraisers **200.434**
- Fund raising **200.442**
- Fines, penalties, damages, or other settlements **200.411** unless directly related to a specific compliance need related to the award and only with prior written Sponsor approval,
- Lobbying (federal, state, or local) **200.450**
- Student activities **200.469**
- Bad debt costs **200.426**
- Fines and penalties **200.441**
- Sales tax

Entertainment Unallowable Expense 200.438

- Alcohol **200.423**
- Flowers **200.438**
- Catering allowable only as a preapproved cost of a conference **200.432**
- Gifts
- Meals: without a documented business purpose, including list of attendees
- Goods or services for personal use **200.455**

REFERENCES & SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Cost Transfer Form - <https://augustauniversity.app.box.com/s/vpfcse54wp6on42lj9qw6r5u3ij0yq6w>

Cost Accounting Standards - <https://www.acquisition.gov/far/part-30>

RELATED POLICIES

Direct Charging Policy - <https://augustauniversity.app.box.com/s/czs0s5vlzmp476xbwyoe8tpxnv0mmh2a>

Cost Sharing Policy - <https://augustauniversity.app.box.com/s/8siy58tpm8ihobi9m1ffanblevojfdnx>

Cost Transfer Policy - <https://augustauniversity.app.box.com/s/yw95kv2y0cwbh6b2yuv6kth41cb0xndt>

APPROVED BY:

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, Augusta University

Date: 8/17/2022

President, Augusta University

Date: 8/17/2022