

Research Services and Sponsored Programs

Policy 09.006

Area:	Principal Investigator Eligibility
Authority:	Dean of Graduate School and Research
History:	Placed into effect March 2009
Responsible Office:	Office of Sponsored Programs

Background

When the University of North Carolina Wilmington submits proposals to external sponsors and accepts awards for sponsored projects, the University assumes significant financial and legal obligations. Sponsors fund projects based in part on the professional expertise of the Principal Investigators submitting proposals; however, the formal award is made to, and the obligations assumed, by the University. Under the general oversight and authority of the university, the principal investigator of a sponsored project is the individual who bears primary responsibility for technical compliance, completion of programmatic work, fiscal stewardship of sponsor funds and compliance with administrative requirements of the project.

Purpose and Applicability

The University must ensure that individuals serving in the capacity of Principal Investigator (PI) have the technical competence and administrative capability to oversee a sponsored project. The following Statement of Principal Investigator Eligibility provides institutional definitions for who may serve as a PI on an externally sponsored project.

Eligibility.

- Any permanent or time limited employee of the University of North Carolina Wilmington is eligible to submit proposals through ORSSP and act as Principal Investigator.
- Adjunct faculty or employees of other state agencies housed at UNCW, if authorized by their immediate supervisor.
- Full time students may submit proposals and be listed as co-PI's with their advisor, department chair or director who assumes responsibility for the project and is identified as PI.

- Post doctoral employees/students, Scholar in Residence, Adjunct faculty, Emeritus faculty, Visiting faculty may submit proposals and be listed as co-PI's with their advisor, department chair or director who assumes responsibility for the project and is identified as PI.
- Individuals listed above, with the approval of their department chair and appropriate dean/director, may serve as a principal investigator. By this approval, the department chair and appropriate dean/director recognize the potential transient relationship that individual holds with the university and shall exercise special care to ensure all obligations to the sponsor and university are met.

In some cases, a sponsoring agency may have restrictions on who may serve as a Principal Investigator on a particular project or program that are more stringent than UNCW. In these cases, the sponsor's requirements will take precedence over institutional policy.

Individuals allowed to serve as Principal Investigators on sponsored activities are required to comply with UNCW and State of North Carolina policies, practices and procedures.

Contact: Director of Sponsored Programs, 910.962.3810, www.uncw.edu/policies