

University of Rochester

Definition of a Sponsored Program

A sponsored program is identified when any of the following conditions apply. Excluded from this classification are: a) contracts entered into by faculty for scholarly writing and artistic creation; b) a subset of service agreements administered by the School of Medicine and Dentistry or Strong Memorial Hospital that do not require reporting as part of the University's single audit (e.g., some clinical service agreements, staff expansion grants, and professional service agreements); and service agreements that are administered by research cores or specialized service centers .

1. The project commits the University or the investigator to a specific line of scientific or scholarly inquiry. Any project with a title that defines the study beyond the broad scope of a discipline falls in this category;
2. Funding is contingent upon the University's acceptance of a specific commitment, such as the level of personnel effort, deliverables (i.e., a report, patient case report, device or prototype), or the achievement of specific performance targets or milestones;
3. There is a line-item budget detailing or limiting expenses by activity function or project period, or by limiting the University's ability to transfer funds among expenditure categories;
4. A detailed financial status report or external audit is required;
5. Any unexpended funds must be returned to the sponsor at the end of the budget period;
6. The agreement with the sponsor provides for the disposition of intangible property (e.g., rights in data, copyrights, patents, licenses, inventions, etc.), which may result from the sponsored activity or for the disposition of tangible property acquired during the project (e.g., equipment, supplies, drugs, materials, etc.).

If none of the described characteristics of a sponsored project are described, such awards may be treated as gifts.

All research and teaching activities, whether or not considered a sponsored project, which involve human subjects, laboratory animals, use of regulated materials must be reviewed by the appropriate University committees for compliance with University policies and governmental regulations.

The Vice President for Research [website](#) should be consulted for further information about sponsored programs that include international collaborations

Related Guidance: [Guidelines on Gifts from Corporations](#)

ORPA

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Approved by the Research Compliance Committee and Research Policy Committee