

Principal Investigator (PI)/Project Director (PD) Eligibility

When a proposal is submitted and/or accepted by Wright State University for research or other sponsored activity, the University assumes significant financial and legal obligations. Although projects are funded based on the expertise of the PI or PD, the formal award is made to Wright State University. The PI/PD of a project is an individual who has the primary responsibility for the technical compliance, completion of programmatic work, fiscal stewardship of sponsor funds and administrative compliance of the project. Given the magnitude of responsibility, the University has to ensure that the individuals serving in the PI/PD capacity have the technical and administrative competence to carry out the sponsored project. Individuals must be employed by, or affiliated with, WSU in one of the following categories to be eligible for PI/PD status:

- Fully affiliated faculty and staff (academic year or fiscal year)
- Directors of University approved Institutes or Centers
- Research Professors or Research Scientists
- Institutional Clinical Faculty
- Emeriti faculty with active research programs and/or facilities
- Full-time administrators

In conjunction with the sponsoring agency, Department Chairs, Center Directors, and Deans, the following individuals may attain PI/PD status:

- Emeriti faculty
- Adjunct/Visiting faculty
- Students (with eligible PI mentor)
- Post-doctoral fellows

In some cases, a sponsoring agency may have restrictions as to who may serve as a principal investigator or project director on a particular project or program that are more stringent than WSU defines above. In these cases, the sponsor's requirements take precedence over the institutional procedure for that project. In the case where a sponsor may require, allow or expect an individual to serve as a PI/PD, who, under WSU definitions would otherwise not be eligible, the individual will have a tenure track faculty member serve as Co-Principal Investigator for internal purposes and assume responsibility for compliance with sponsor and institutional requirements. If a Department Chair and Dean are confident in the abilities of an otherwise ineligible individual to serve as PI/PD, the Department Chair or Dean may request that the Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies consider a deviation from procedure. Such requests must be submitted in writing and contain a statement by the Department Chair and Dean that he or she will assume full responsibility for the actions of that individual in their capacity as PI/PD. This statement will be included in the campus routing of the proposal as performed by Research and Sponsored Programs.

Date revised: 3/1/12 (approved by WSU Research Council)