

WMU Research Reports: Terms and Definitions

Direct costs:

Funds that directly pay for research costs that can be specifically attributed to a project such as supplies, equipment, salaries, stipends, tuition, and research travel expenses.

Facilities and Administrative (F & A) Costs:

Actual and quantifiable costs that cannot be easily and specifically attributed to a particular project but are part of the real cost of conducting research and other sponsored projects. Examples include utilities, custodial services, security, payroll, purchasing, and departmental administration. The F & A rate charged by WMU is negotiated with and set by the federal government. The current F&A rate for WMU is 51% for research, 24% for other sponsored programs, and 24% for off-campus work. All sponsors should be charged this rate unless they are a non-profit sponsor with a posted lower rate (such as foundations, state and local agencies, and non-profit organizations). F&A has previously been also referred to as overhead or indirect costs.

Awards:

The total amount of external funding received in the defined period (quarter or annual) from new submissions, competitive renewals, non-competitive renewals, contracts, sub awards, supplemental funding requests, and fellowship applications sent to external sponsors (except when they are not submitted to OVPR in error) via the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR). It does not include fellowships awarded directly to students or faculty, some foundation awards submitted by the Office of Development & Alumni Relations, and any submission not processed by OVPR. It includes research *and sponsored programs, many of which are not classified as research but rather as service.*

Submissions:

The total amount of external funding submissions reported in the defined period (quarter or annual). This includes all new submissions, competitive renewals, non-competitive renewals, contracts, sub awards, supplemental funding requests, and fellowship applications sent to external sponsors via the Proposal Approval Form (PAF) process in OVPR. It does not include fellowships submitted directly by students or faculty, some foundation awards submitted by the Office of Development & Alumni Relations, and any submission not processed by OVPR. It includes research *and sponsored programs, many of which are not classified as research but rather as service.*

WMU Expenditures:

This is an internal report from OVPR on all expenses from research *and sponsored programs* awards and relates to all awards defined above in the defined period (quarter or annual). This is offset from award dates and a direct comparison to awards is difficult as expenditure of 100% of the funds in a given year is not required and funds can carry over year to year. It is not the same as the NSF HERD survey and is used for internal planning and budget purposes.

NSF HERD survey expenditures:

This is an external report that nationally benchmarks data from all U.S. universities. The total amount of Research and Development (R&D) expenditures from current operating funds reported in a fiscal year to the National Science Foundation (NSF). R&D expenditures are defined by the NSF's Higher Education Research and Development Survey (HERD) and are submitted in January following the end of the fiscal year and are nationally released in November ~16-17 months after the fiscal year ends. The total includes R&D expenditures from WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine (WMed), unless specified otherwise. WMed first submitted research expenditures in FY 2014.

INCLUDED:

- Sponsored research (federal and non-federal)
- University research (institutional funds that are separately budgeted for individual R&D projects)
- Start-up, bridge, or seed funding provided to researchers within WMU
- Other departmental funds designated for research
- Recovered and unrecovered indirect costs
- Equipment purchased from R&D project accounts
- R&D funds passed through to another (sub-recipient) organization, educational or other
- Clinical trials, Phases I, II, or III
- Research training grants funding work on organized research projects
- Tuition remission provided to students working on research

EXCLUDED:

- Public service grants or outreach programs
- Curriculum development (unless included as part of an overall research project)
- R&D conducted by university faculty or staff at outside institutions that is not accounted for in WMU financial records
- Estimates of the proportion of time budgeted for instruction that is spent on research
- Capital projects (i.e., construction or renovation of research facilities)
- Non-research training grants
- Unrecovered indirect costs that exceed WMU's federally negotiated F&A rate

November 1, 2018