



220 Pawtucket Street – Suite 400
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 Email: OSPPProposals@uml.edu

OFFICE OF SPONSORED PROGRAMS

**NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH)
 Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) For Undergraduate-Focused Institutions (R15)
 CLINICAL TRIAL NOT ALLOWED
 FULL RESEARCH PROPOSAL CHECKLIST**

When preparing NIH R15 AREA proposals, please follow the specific FOA ([PAR-25-134](#)) along with the [Research Instructions for NIH and Other PHS Agencies](#) (Forms Version I Series). The FOA contains Related Notices which may include Notices of Special Interest (NOSI), additional proposal preparation guidance, and other important information. The guidance provided in the FOA will supersede the general Research Instructions. It is **critical** to verify the [Institute & Center \(IC\)](#) you are targeting is participating in the FOA. This checklist highlights, not replaces, the R15 AREA FOA and Research Instructions. **Please consult the guidelines for complete instructions.**

***PLEASE NOTE:** UML is **NOT** eligible to apply to the R15 Research Enhancement Award Program (REAP) for Health Professional Schools and Graduate Schools (PAR-25-298), we are only eligible to apply to the R15 AREA FOA.

REQUIRED FORMATTING

- All documents must be submitted in PDF format (100MB or less)
- Use Arial, Helvetica, or Palatino Linotype - 11 point font or larger. (Smaller font may be used for figures, graphs, diagrams, charts, tables, figure legends and footnotes but must be legible)
- ½ inch margins all around for all pages
- Filename: Length of uploaded document titles must not be more than 50 characters using the following characters: A-Z, a-z, 0-9, underscore, hyphen, space, period, parenthesis, curly braces, square brackets, tilde, exclamation point, comma, semi colon, apostrophe, at sign, number sign, dollar sign, percent sign, plus sign, and equal sign.
- No information in header or footer - page numbers for the footer will be system-generated.
- Follow the [NIH Table of Page Limits](#)
- Hyperlinks/URLs are only allowed when specifically noted in the guidelines but are otherwise strictly prohibited. When allowed, you must hyperlink the actual URL text, so it appears on the page rather than hiding the URL behind a specific word or phrase (hypertext).
- Electronic signatures on PDF attachments within your application are not allowed. Standard forms requiring electronic signatures should be flattened prior to upload.

Application can be prepared by PI in [Grants.gov](#) Workspace

<i>Proposal Element</i>	<i>Instructions</i>
SF424	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sample SF-424 form – Be sure to use NIH EIN (1-043167352-E5) • Earliest start date and standard due dates • Maximum project period is 3 years • Federal Identifier (Field 4.a.) is required for Resubmissions, Revision and Renewal applications. Include only the institute code and serial number of the prior application/grant number (e.g., use CA987654 extracted from full application/grant number 1R01CA987654-A1).
RR Other Project Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answer questions 1-6 • If human subjects are included – Human Subject Assurance # is FWA00000215 • Enter the 8-digit number. Do not enter “FWA” before the number.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If Vertebrate Animals are included – Animal Welfare Assurance # is A3867-01 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter the latest IRB or IACUC approval date (if available). Leave blank if pending. • If the project involves foreign activities or international collaborations, you must upload a file named “Foreign Justification” to Field 12 – Other Attachments • Note on foreign collaborations: For applications to NIH on or after May 1, 2025, monetary foreign collaborations are only allowed on applications to a NOFO that is specifically designated for funded foreign collaborations
Project Summary/Abstract	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited to 30 lines of text • Do not include proprietary, confidential information or trade secrets
Project Narrative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 sentence max.
References Cited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should include references cited in the Research Plan and Human Subject sections • Active hyperlinks in this section are not allowed • Citations that fall under the Public Access Policy (authored or co-authored by the applicant and arose from NIH support) provide the NIH Manuscript Submission reference number or the PubMed Central (PMC) reference number. • Citations not covered by the Public Access Policy, but are publicly available in a free, online format may include URLs or PubMed ID (PMID) numbers along with the full reference
Facilities & Other Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the scientific environment in which the research will be done and how it contributes to the probability of success (e.g., institutional support, physical resources, and intellectual rapport). • The R15 AREA FOA requires additional information is included in the Facilities & Other Resources document – SEE R15 AREA FOA FOR DETAILS. • Although the majority of the research must be directed by the PD(s)/PI(s) and conducted at the applicant institution, limited use of special facilities or equipment at another institution is permitted. For any proposed research sites other than the applicant institution, provide a brief description of the resources, access PD(s)/PI(s) and students have to these resources, and the justification for their need.
Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List major items of equipment already available • If there are no equipment items to list, upload a pdf with the “Equipment” heading and state No major equipment will be used to complete the proposed work.
Other Attachments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R15 AREA ELIGIBILITY LETTER - A signed letter is required from the provost or similar official with institution-wide responsibility (E.D. of OSP) verifying the eligibility of the applicant institution at the time of application submission, according to the eligibility criteria indicated above.
RR Performance Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include all project/performance site location(s) – generally the applicant organization is the primary location. • UEI is a required field (UML UEI: LTNVSTJ3R6D5)
RR Key Person Profile (including Bio)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIH now requires the use of the Biographical Sketch Common Form prepared in SciENcv – see OSP website for detailed instructions on how to complete the new form. • You must link your eRA commons account to your SciENcv account, and link your eRA commons ID with your ORCID ID • Once you have certified in SciENcv and downloaded the document, you cannot edit anything except the title, or it won’t be compliant • You must still include your eRA Commons ID in the “Credential, e.g., agency login” field • Current and Pending Support is not required at proposal stage unless specified in the NOFO



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<p>Budget</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants may request up to \$375,000 in direct costs, excluding consortium F&A, for the entire project period of up to 3 years. • Must draft budget using OSP Internal Budget Template which you will data enter in portal once OSP approves • In grants.gov, the total budget for all years of the proposed project must be requested in Budget Period 1. Do not complete Budget Periods 2 or 3. They are not required and will not be accepted with the application. • Applicants with direct costs of \$250,000 or less (total for all years, excluding consortium indirect costs) must use the Modular Budget. • Applicants with direct costs of \$250,001 - \$375,000 (total for all years, excluding consortium indirect costs) must use the Detailed (RR) Budget. • Since a primary objective of the AREA program is to engage undergraduate students in meritorious biomedical research, the research team must be composed primarily of undergraduate students from the applicant institution/AREA-eligible component. • Important Reminders - Check the solicitation carefully for budget requirements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NIH has an annual salary cap. Personnel with 9-month appointments should calculate the monthly salary for the current NIH cap and then multiply that amount by 9 to determine what to use as the base salary for the OSP Internal Budget Template. ○ Full-time Academic RAs require associated tuition and fees. (\$10K per 9 academic months) ○ UML’s equipment acquisition threshold is \$5K ○ Confirm whether there is required travel for conferences or meetings ○ Absolutely no cost share unless solicitation requires ○ Cognizant Federal Agency Field - DHHS, Edwin Miranda, 212-264-2069 ○ Include Data Management and Sharing Costs (as applicable). Costs to support these activities may be requested in the appropriate cost category. Details regarding Data Management and Sharing Costs must be specified in the Budget Justification attachment.
<p>Budget Justification (if using RR budget)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants with direct costs of \$250,001 - \$375,000 (total for all years, excluding consortium indirect costs) must use the R&R Budget. • Indicate aspects of the proposed research in which undergraduate students will participate. If participating students have not yet been individually identified, the number and academic level of those to be involved should be provided. • If there are any Collaborators or Consultants for the project, provide their names, organizational affiliations, and the services they will perform.
<p>Personnel Justification (Used for Modular)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants with direct costs of \$250,000 or less (total for all years, excluding consortium indirect costs) must use the Modular Budget. • Should include the name, role, and number of person-months devoted to this project for every person on the project, including Other Significant Contributors and Consultants who are committing effort. • Indicate aspects of the proposed research in which undergraduate students will participate. If participating students have not yet been individually identified, the number and academic level of those to be involved should be provided. • Do not include salary and fringe benefit rate in the justification • NIH Specific Personnel Justification Template
<p>Consortium Justification</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have a subcontract(s), include total costs (direct + F&A) rounded to the nearest



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<i>(Used for Modular)</i>	<p>\$1,000 for each and identify any foreign consortiums.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should include the name, role, and number of person-months devoted to this project for every person on the project. • NIH Specific Consortium Justification Template
Additional Narrative Justification <i>(Used for Modular)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include explanations for any variations in the number of modules requested annually. • Describe any direct costs excluded from the total direct costs (such as equipment, tuition remission) and any work being conducted off-site, especially if it involves a foreign study site or an off-site F&A rate. • NIH Specific Additional Narrative Justification Template • Details regarding Data Management and Sharing Costs must be separately justified under a clearly labeled section entitled “Data Management and Sharing Justification” within the budget justification followed by the estimated dollar amount (total direct costs). Provide a brief summary of type and amount of scientific data to be preserved and shared and the name of the established repository(ies) where they will be preserved and shared. Indicate general cost categories such as curating data and developing supporting documentation, local data management activities, preserving and sharing data through established repositories, etc., including an amount for each category and a brief explanation. Specify in the justification if no costs will be incurred for Data Management and Sharing, if applicable. The recommended length of the justification should be no more than half a page.
PHS Human Subjects and Clinical Trials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video discussing how to complete the form, annotated form sets, and application instructions • Questions regarding Human Subject determinations (IRB) can be directed to IRB@uml.edu
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory for resubmissions or revisions (1 page max)
Specific Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited to 1 page (No figures allowed)
Research Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 page max – see additional instructions in FOA • Organize the Research Strategy in the specified order starting each section with the appropriate heading – Significance, Innovation, Approach. • Detailed guidance and requirements provided in the Research Instructions for NIH and Other PHS Agencies
Progress Report Publications List	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should be included for renewal submissions
Vertebrate Animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be included if Vertebrate Animals are being used • Be sure to address 1.) Description of Procedures 2.) Justification 2.) Minimization of Pain and Distress 4.) Project Performance Sites 5.) When and How Animals are Expected to be Used • Questions regarding Vertebrate Animal determinations (IACUC) can be directed to IACUC@uml.edu
Select Agent Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include if your proposed activities involve the use of select agents at any time during the proposed project period, either at the applicant organization or at any performance site
Multiple PD/PI Leadership Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be included if multiple PIs have been designated in the RR Key Person Profile section
Consortium/Contractual Arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be included if you have consortiums/contracts in your budget
Letters of Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include letters necessary to demonstrate the support of consortium participants and collaborators such as Senior/Key Personnel and Other Significant Contributors



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultants letters should include rate/charge for consulting services and level of effort/number of hours per budget period anticipated. In addition, letters ensuring access to core facilities and resources should stipulate whether access will be provided as a fee-for- service
Resource Sharing Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicable to Sharing Model Organisms and Research Tools • Additional requirements may apply depending on the project
Other Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Data Management and Sharing Plan (DMS Plan) is required for any NIH-funded or conducted research that will generate scientific data. • For due dates on or after 5/25/26, the new NIH DMS Plan Format page must be used per Guide Notice NOT-OD-26-046 • New DMSP format page includes 7 questions to be answered by the research team.
Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If applicable, briefly describe methods to ensure the identity and validity of key biological and/or chemical resources used in the proposed studies. A maximum of one page is suggested.
Appendix	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIH is VERY specific about what is allowed as an appendix. Please consult the Research Instructions for NIH and Other PHS Agencies
PHS Assignment Request Form	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This form is optional. Use it only if you wish to communicate specific awarding component assignments or review preferences. PHS Assignment Information can be found here. • It is <i>critical</i> to verify the Institute & Center (IC) you are targeting is participating

Subcontract Organization(s) – Required Documents

- [Subrecipient Commitment Form](#) (with 3b1 and 3b2-if applicable)
- Statement of Work
- [Project/Performance Site Location\(s\)](#)
- [Research & Related Senior/Key Person Profile](#)
- [Research & Related Budget](#)
- Budget Justification
- Facilities & Other Resources
- Equipment
- Letters of Support



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HOW TO ENTER MULTIPLE INDIRECT COST (IDC) RATES IN GRANTS.GOV

UML’s Negotiated Indirect Cost (IDC) Rate Agreement has different yearly rates in the coming years. Multiple rates may apply to a single budget period due to how the fiscal year falls within the period of performance. The split rates must be detailed out on proposal budgets. To split the rates, follow the steps below:

1. Ensure you are using [the most current internal budget template](#).
2. Confirm the correct dates for the applicable budget period are entered in row 3 of the budget template.

3	Start Date: 10/1/2026	End Date: 9/30/2027
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3. On the newest internal template, the IDC breakdown is calculated under the budget on each tab. Please reference the table below when entering in the IDC in grants.gov.

INDIRECT COSTS				
	Indirect Cost Type	Indirect Cost Rate	Rate Information	Indirect Cost Base
1.	Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC)	On Campus - Research	Dates Needed	
2.				
Cognizant Federal Agency: DHHS, Edwin Miranda, (212) 264-2069 IDC Rate Agreement Dated: 06/11/2024				
<i>Our negotiated indirect cost rates are split by fiscal year. To assist with budget entry, please see table below for indirect cost breakdown. NOTE: After FY27, no breakdown is needed as the rate will remain constant.</i>				
Total Indirect Costs				
TOTAL DIRECT AND INDIRECT COSTS				
Indirect Cost Type 1				
		Indc Rate	Indc Base	Indc2
FY1		#N/A	-	#N/A
FY2		#N/A	-	#N/A
FY3		#N/A	-	#N/A
Total			-	#N/A

Below is an example of how to complete this section on the *RR Budget*:

H. Indirect Costs				
	Indirect Cost Type	Indirect Cost Rate (%)	Indirect Cost Base (\$)	Funds Requested (\$)
X	MTDC (07/01/2025 - 06/30/2027)	57.50	106,409.00	61,185.00
X	MTDC (07/01/2027 - 06/30/2028)	58.00	35,859.00	20,798.00
Add Additional Indirect Cost				
Total Indirect Costs				81,983.00
Cognizant Federal Agency (Agency Name, POC Name, and POC Phone Number)		DHHS, Edwin Miranda, (212) 264-2069		

You can add as many Indirect Cost Rates as needed using the highlighted “Add Additional Indirect Cost.” To calculate the IDC, multiply each portion of the MTDC by the applicable rate.

Be sure to add the Cognizant Federal Agency Information.