PI Eligibility for External Grants

Principal Investigators (PIs) on external research grants are responsible for identifying funding opportunities, developing proposals, verifying and approving completed proposal submission in VERA, and leading project compliance, implementation, and reporting tasks.*

Vanderbilt PIs on external grants must:

➢ Be employed by VU (required to follow VU's policies and procedures)

➢ Be required to complete Vanderbilt University's (VU) annual *Conflict of Interest Disclosures*

➢ Be required to complete research compliance training

➢ Have sufficient time to properly oversee the externally sponsored project and complete required technical reports and meet any other requirements

➢ Have capacity to actively engage to oversee postdocs and students' work on the project, if applicable

Individuals with full-time faculty appointments typically meet the above criteria. Professional research staff (as determined by the School or College) with full-time appointments also typically meet the above criteria.

Individuals who do not have full-time appointments as faculty or professional research staff (i.e., other staff or part-time faculty) may be approved to serve as a Principal Investigator (PI). In these cases, an individual leading their unit (see below) must affirm that the proposed PI can meet the above criteria. In addition, the leader should affirm that another individual on the project team, a Department Chair, or the leader is familiar enough with the project that they can step in to oversee project compliance, implementation, and/or reporting if necessary.

For individuals who do not have full-time appointments as faculty or professional research staff, the following is a framework for identifying who approves PI eligibility:

➢ For individuals organized under a college or school work unit, the Dean or their designee (e.g., Associate Dean for Research) provides approval

➢ For individuals organized under a Vice Provost work unit, the Vice Provost or their designee provides approval

➢ For individuals organized under work units outside of Academic Affairs, the Vice Chancellor or their designee provides approval

Individuals with full-time faculty appointments typically meet the above criteria.
Professional research staff (as determined by the School or College) with full-time appointments also typically meet the above criteria.

Please complete the separate form if you require exception from this policy.