Introduction to Sponsored Programs

Rebecca Trahan
Danielle Johnson

Office of Sponsored Programs

Training Session Overview

- Introduction to OSP
- Proposal Submission Process
- Budget Preparation
- Award Process
- Post-Award Modifications
What is a Sponsored Project?

- Externally funded research, public service or instruction activity
- Funded by a grant, contract or cooperative agreement
- Usually requires a report or deliverable and fiscal accountability
- Funding is for a specific purpose and time period
- Not an unrestricted gift

Office of Sponsored Programs

What do we do?

- Handle all proposal activity for the University
- Negotiate and approve awards, including amendments
- Draft subawards
- Handle prior approval requests
- Provide current information, advice, and assistance to faculty and staff related to sponsored programs
- The OSP Executive Director is the Authorized Official for the University
**OSP Statistics**

- **Total Submitted Proposals**
  - FY13: 1182 proposals requesting $324M
  - FY14: 1256 proposals requesting $519M
  - FY15: 1280 proposals requesting $496M

- **Annual Awards**
  - FY13: $142.1M
  - FY14: $134.1M
  - FY15: $144.2M

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**Proposal Submission Process**

1. PI develops idea
2. PI conducts Funding Search
3. PI and/or Department prepares proposal and budget
4. PI and/or Department routes proposal in SPS
5. OSP reviews and approves proposal
6. PI or OSP submit proposal to sponsor
Responsibilities of Principal Investigator (PI)

- A Principal Investigator (PI) is the individual who:
  - holds primary responsibility for the technical conduct, administrative and budgetary management of project.
  - is responsible for complying with all contractual obligations.

- PI, Department Chair and Dean are collectively responsible for:
  - the conduct of research with respect to sponsor and University policies and procedures.
  - Unallowable charges are the responsibility of the PI’s department and/or college.

Who can be PI and Co-PI? (LSU Requirements)

- The principal investigator (PI) and co-principal investigator (Co-PI) must be an LSU employee unless the proposal involves one of the following:
  - Non-LSU employees will participate on the project as part of a proposed subcontract.
  - The sponsor requires the proposal to include non-LSU employees as Co-PIs (i.e. NSF GOALI proposals)

- Also need to be aware of and follow sponsors' requirements on who can be PI/Co-PI, if any.
Who can be PI? (LSU Requirements)

- With department and college approvals:
  - Full or part-time faculty and staff
  - Prospective hires who will be on the LSU payroll (i.e., in a paid status) at the time of the award
    - full or part-time faculty and staff
    - visiting faculty
    - adjunct or gratis faculty
  - Emeritus faculty
    - provided they can fulfill the technical and administrative responsibilities of the project as well as meet Sponsor’s approval

Who can be Co-PI? (LSU Requirements)

- With department and college approvals:
  - Anyone who can be named as a PI
  - Graduate assistant
    - a faculty member or unit head must be listed as the PI
  - Visiting faculty, adjunct or gratis faculty not on the University payroll (i.e., not in a paid status)
**Funding Search**

- Conduct funding searches using:
  - SPIN and Grants.gov are searchable databases
  - LASMARTS
  - LAGENIUS
- See “Funding Resources” section of Office of Research and Economic Development (ORED) Website for more information

**Application Guidelines**

- Review Request for Proposal (RFP), Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA), or Broad Agency Announcement (BAA)
- Review agency proposal guidelines and electronic submission instructions
  - NSF Grant Proposal Guide
  - NIH SF424(R&R) Grant Application Guide
  - Grants.gov User Guides and Grants.gov sponsor specific user guides
- Review the OSP Guide
OSP Website Resources

- OSP Guide
- Budget Worksheets
  - LSU Generic Budget
  - NIH Modular Worksheet
  - NSF Budget
  - SF424 (R&R) Budget
- Proposal Processing Checklist
- Grants.gov templates
- Useful information and University contacts
- Sample SF424 and SF424(R&R)
- Fringe, tuition remission and F&A rates

Uniform Guidance (UG)

Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (2 CFR 200)

- Effective for awards issued on or after 12/26/2014.
- Sets pre-award, post-award, and close-out requirements for federal sponsors.
Establishes standards for obtaining consistency and uniformity among Federal agencies in the administration of grants and agreements.

- Pre-award requirements
- Post-award requirements
- Close-out procedures

* Replaces OMB Circular A-110

Establishes principles for determining costs applicable to grants, contracts, and other agreements

- Provides guidance on what types of costs are allowed to be charged to federal awards as direct costs or facilities and administrative (F&A) costs
- Gives instructions on how institutions should develop and apply their F&A cost rates.

* Replaces OMB Circular A-21
Uniform Guidance
Subpart F - Audit Requirements

- Establishes the standards for obtaining consistency and uniformity among Federal agencies for the audit of organizations expending federal awards.
  - Ensures that federal funds are managed appropriately and financial reporting is accurate.

* Replaces OMB Circular A-133

Proposal Preparation

- Typical proposal contents
  - Title Page
  - Table of Contents
  - Project Abstract
  - Project Narrative (Scope of Work)
  - Budget
  - Budget Justification
  - Personnel
  - Current and Pending Support
  - Other Financial Assistance
  - Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources
**Budget Preparation**

- **Common Budget Categories/Major Cost Categories**
  - Salaries and Wages
  - Fringe Benefits
  - Tuition Remission
  - Equipment
  - Travel
  - Materials and Supplies
  - Subcontracts/Subawards
  - Consulting and Professional Services
  - Operating Services
  - Participant Support Costs
  - Other Direct Costs
  - Facilities & Administrative Costs

- **Direct Costs**
  - Costs that can be identified specifically with a particular project and can be easily assigned to project with a high degree of accuracy

- **Indirect Costs/Facilities & Administrative Costs**
  - Costs that are incurred for common or joint objectives that cannot be identified easily to a specific project.
**DIRECT COSTS**

**Allowable Direct Costs**

- **Reasonable** - an average person would have purchased this item and paid this price
- **Allocable** - requires an expense directly benefit and be necessary for the performance of the project
- **Consistently treated** - like costs must be treated the same in like circumstances, as either direct or F&A costs
- **For Federal Sponsors** - see Uniform Guidance, Subpart E
- **Some programs may have other restrictions on allowable costs.**
Unallowable Direct Costs

- Administrative and clerical services
- Alcoholic Beverages
- Copier rental/maintenance
- Entertainment
- Extra compensation for professorial or professional employees
- General purpose equipment
- Goods and services for personal use
- Local telephone calls
- Maintenance and repair
- Memberships
- Monthly cell phone charges
- Office furniture
- Office supplies
- Postage
- Proposal development costs
- Software (Windows, Microsoft Office, Adobe, etc.)
- Subscriptions
- Telephone rental and line charges

- These costs are normally unallowable on federally sponsored projects
- See FASOP: AS-21

Salaries and Wages

- Institutional Base Salary (IBS) - annual compensation paid for an individual's appointment (9 or 12 months), whether that individual’s time is spent on research, teaching, administration, or other activities.
  - Salary = IBS x percent of effort on the project
  - Salary = Monthly salary x number of months on the project

- Academic employees can receive summer salary if effort will be devoted on the project during the summer.
  - 1 summer month salary = 1/9 of academic salary

Types of Salaries and Wages

- Senior Personnel
- Postdoctoral Researchers
- Technical Personnel
- Graduate Students
- Undergraduate Students
- Contingent Employees
Senior Personnel Effort

- OMB clarification M-01-06 requires that most Federally-funded research projects have some level of committed faculty or senior researcher effort.

- LSU’s policy requires all research budgets (federal and non-federal) include some level of effort by at least one senior researcher in each year of the project.
  - Does not apply to equipment, instrumentation, doctoral dissertation, student augmentation grants and small research projects ($50,000 or less).

- Sponsor may have additional requirements.
  - NIH requires all senior personnel to devote measurable effort to the project.
  - NSF limits salary compensation for senior personnel to no more than two months of their regular salary in any one year for all NSF-funded grants.

Fringe Benefits

Fringe Benefits = Salary x fringe benefit rate

Federally Negotiated Fringe Benefit Rates

- Regular employees: 42%
- Contingent labor/transients (object code 1220/1250): 7.65%
- Graduate Assistants: 0%
- Student Workers: 0%
- Nonstudent employees with “F” or “J” visa (object code 1100): 0%

- Fringe benefits are not charged for graduate and undergraduate students.
- Fringe Benefit rates can change annually. See OSP website for current rates.
Graduate Assistant Tuition Remission

- Proposals submitted with graduate student salaries must include tuition remission.
  - 35% of Graduate Assistant Salary

- Should not be included in the budget if the sponsor or solicitation does not allow.

- Exempt from F&A.

- Tuition Remission can change annually. See OSP website for current information.

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Capital Equipment

- Items costing $5,000 or more, with a useful life of at least one year.

- Anything less than $5,000 should be budgeted to supplies.

- Exempt from F&A
**Travel**

- Travel costs necessary for the project
  - Field work
  - Travel to meet with collaborators
  - Travel to present findings at conferences

- Domestic or Foreign Travel

- Budget using University Travel Regulation rates (PM-13)

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**Materials and Supplies**

- Expendable materials and supplies needed for the project.

- Office supply costs are normally treated as F&A Costs and consequently not allowable as direct costs.

- Computing devices under $5,000 if they are:
  - (1) essential for the purposes of carrying out a specific aim of the funded project,
  - (2) above and beyond what is normally provided by the department for academic use, and
  - (3) charged to the grant in some reasonable proportion relative to how much it is used for the funded project.

- Chemicals
- Reagents
- Animals (with IACUC approval)
Subcontractor vs. Contractor (Vendor)

**Subcontractor**
- Responsible for carrying out a portion of the project
- Programmatic involvement
- Co-author on publications
- Must adhere to award terms & conditions

**Contractor**
- Provides goods and services as part of normal business operations
- Provides similar goods & services to many different customers
- Not involved in programmatic work on the project

Examples of Subcontractor vs. Contractor (Vendor)

- **Subcontractor** - A collaborator agrees to supervise a post doctoral fellow and other personnel associated with the performance of specific aim 2 on your project. They will also assist the project PI with preparation of the progress reports and manuscripts resulting from the study.

- **Contractor** - A collaborator agrees to perform an analysis on your samples and provide the results.
Consultants

- Consultants are individuals/firms providing services and do not participate in programmatic decision-making.

- When consultants are affiliated with another academic institution, the services provided should be:
  - outside of their institutional time and commitments
  - without use of their institutional resources (including students and staff)
  - paid directly to the consultant as an individual

- LSU employees may not serve as consultants on sponsored projects *awarded to LSU*.
  - They should be budgeted under personnel.

Operating Services

- Rental Costs
- External Lab Services
- Printing and Duplicating
- Animal Per Diem (with IACUC approval)
- University Approved Service Centers
Service Centers

- On-campus facilities that charge a fixed rate for usage.
  - Budgeted under Operating Services.

- Must be an approved Service Center.
  - See Office of Budget and Planning website to confirm.
  - On the budget justification, use the name as it appears on the website.

- If a facility is not an approved service center, the costs must be broken into the appropriate categories (e.g. personnel, supplies, etc.)

- See Policy Statement 103 for more information.

Participant Support Costs

- Stipends or subsistence allowances, travel allowances and registration fees paid to or on behalf of participants or trainees (but not employees) in connection with conferences, or training projects.

- Exempt from F&A

- These are NOT payments to participants of a research study
  - Paid as research subject fees under object code 5720
FACILITIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE (F&A) COSTS

Facilities & Administrative Rates

Federally Negotiated Rates
Research 48%
Instruction 49%
Public Service 35%
Off-campus projects 26%

State ½ of Federally negotiated rate

- F&A rates can change annually. See OSP website for current rates.
What F&A rate do I use?

1) Is your project Research, Instruction, Public Service?

2) Is your project on-campus or off-campus?
   - To use off-campus rate, 50% of direct costs (less subawards) must be off-campus.

3) For state sponsors, is the original source of funds federal?

4) Is the project less than $10,000?
   - Per PM-10, F&A is waived when total project costs are $10,000 or less.

5) Does the sponsor have a written policy to limit F&A?
   - LSU will honor reduced F&A rates when sponsors have a published F&A policy.

What is my F&A base?

**Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC):** Total Direct Costs less
- Each Subaward in excess of $25,000
- Capital equipment
- Tuition remission
- Alterations and Renovations
- Scholarships and fellowships, prizes and awards
- Rental costs of off-site facilities
- Participant Support Costs

MTDC x F&A Rate = F&A Costs
Facilities & Administrative Costs (cont.)

- Waivers and reductions in F&A must be approved by the Vice President for Research and Economic Development.
  - Justification for waiver/reduction must be uploaded to SPS.
  - Use ORED Cost Sharing or Indirect Cost Reductions and Waivers form which can be found on the ORED website under Policies and Compliance.

Cost Sharing/Matching

- The portion of project costs not paid by the sponsor.

- Cost sharing expenditures must occur during the project period.

- If costs are not allowable to be charged to the grant, they cannot be included as cost sharing.

- Cost sharing commitments are a condition of the award and subject to audit.
Types of Institutional Cost Sharing

- Salary
  - PI will devote 3 months to the project. Budget requests salary for 1 month.

- Non-salary
  - College Dean will provide $10,000 towards the purchase of a $50,000 piece of equipment. Budget includes $40,000.

- Unrecovered F&A
  - Sponsor Guidelines indicate that F&A is not allowed.
  - Requesting $20,000 of direct costs from sponsor.
  - 48% of $20,000 = $9,600

Types of External Cost Sharing

- External Match
  - Requires letter from external group agreeing to provide cost sharing
  - See OSP Guide for more details on letter.

- Other sponsored agreement
  - Non-federal
  - Must have sponsor approval
FASOP: AS-06

- Should only commit cost sharing when required by the sponsor or by the competitive nature of the award.

- Commitments should be limited to the specific requirements of the sponsor.

- Commitments must be included in the proposal and must be approved by the University department/unit responsible for the funds.

- Voluntary committed cost sharing must be approved by the Vice President for Research and Economic Development and will be documented in the same manner as sponsor mandated cost sharing.
  - Use ORED Cost Sharing or Indirect Cost Reductions and Waivers form which can be found on the ORED website under Policies and Compliance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Example - 12 Months</th>
<th>Requested</th>
<th>Required Cost Sharing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Salaries</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal Investigator ($90,000 AY Salary)</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 academic month</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2 summer months</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduate Assistant 50%</td>
<td>$21,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Workers @ $10/hr. 1,500 hrs</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty/Staff Fringe Benefits @ 42%</td>
<td>$8,400</td>
<td>$4,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subcontract</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participant Support Costs</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition Remission @ 35%</td>
<td>$7,350</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total Direct Costs                  | $122,750  | $14,200               |
| F&A Costs = Rate x MTDC*            | $47,712   | $6,816                |

| Total Costs                         | $170,462  | $21,016               |

* MTDC = TDC - Subawards over $25,000, Equipment, Participant Support and Tuition Remission
$99,400 = $122,750 - $5,000 (Subcontract Excess of $25K) - $10,000 (Equipment) - $1,000 (Participant Support) - $7,350 (Tuition Remission)
**Budget Justification**

- Provides additional details and support of the expenses requested in the budget.
  - If figures are included, they need to match the budget.

- Should only include items in the budget.
  - Discussing expenses not in the budget can be construed as cost sharing.

- It is not necessary to provide more detail than what is required by the sponsor.

**Proposal Routing**

- All proposals must be routed electronically for OSP approval in myLSU using LSU’s Sponsored Programs System (SPS).

- Refer to Proposal Processing Checklist

- Limited Submission Process
Proposal Routing (continued)

- Lead Time for Processing:
  - 3 business days before mailing or electronic submission deadline
  - 5 business days for NIH Grants.gov submissions
  - 10 business days for large proposals

Proposal Review

What is needed for a Streamlined Review:
- Proposal coversheet (if required)
- Budget & Budget Justification
- Sponsor forms which contain budgetary information or require institutional signature
- Subaward/Subcontract paperwork (if applicable)
- RFP (if applicable)
- Release electronic proposal in the sponsor system
- Grants.gov package (minus the proposal narrative)
**Proposal Review**

What is needed for an Expanded Review:
- All information under Streamlined Review
- Final Complete Proposal
- Subaward/Subcontract scope of work (if applicable)

Expanded Review is conducted when:
1) Requested by PI and entire proposal is uploaded to SPS with proper lead time.
2) Proposals to industry sponsors when one of Industry Agreements is prepared.
3) Non-Competing Continuation Proposals (e.g. NIH RPR).
4) Revised proposals are submitted in anticipation of an Award.
5) When sponsor requests additional information in order to issue an award.

**Preproposals/Notices of Intent**

Must be routed in SPS if one of the following apply:
1) The program limits the number of applications that may be submitted by an institution.
   - approval from the Office of Research and Economic Development is required before OSP may approve.
2) A detailed budget is required
3) Authorized Representative signature, and/or Electronic Submission by OSP is required.

Preproposals/Notices of Intent which do not require Authorized Representative signature, and which provide only total cost estimates, rather than a detailed budget may be submitted directly to Sponsor.
Subaward/Subcontract Proposal Requirements

- Scope of Work for expanded review
- Budget & Budget Justification
- Letter of Collaboration signed by Subrecipient’s Authorized Institutional Representative
- Copy of fringe benefit and F&A cost rate agreement when rates are included in budget (not required for universities)
  - Subrecipients will no rate agreement can include F&A of 10% on MTDC per the Uniform Guidance.

Proposals to Industry

OSP will usually draft one of our Industry Matrix Agreements to accompany proposals to Industry sponsors.

- Express Research Agreement - one page document that covers terms and conditions.
- Sponsored Research Agreement - LSU’s standard agreement with industry
- Academic Research Services Agreement - used when faculty will be measuring, testing or fabricating sponsor owned proprietary materials.
- Clinical Study Agreement - used when LSU will conduct clinical trial
Proposal Approvals

- PI, Co-PI, Department & College Approvals in SPS
- Special Approvals/Compliance in SPS
- Authorized LSU Signature provided by OSP

Proposal Submission

- Regular Mail or FedEx (PI responsibility)
- Electronic Submission by OSP
  - NSF Fastlane
  - Grants.gov
  - BOR LOGAN
  - NIH eRA Commons (RPPR)
  - NASA NSPIRES
- Other Electronic Systems/Email Submission
  - PI Driven vs. OSP Driven
Award Process

1. Sponsor provides feedback (revise, decline, award)
2. If awarded, PI completes OSP-1 and sends to OSP
3. OSP negotiates award terms and conditions
4. OSP accepts award
5. OSP sends award to Sponsored Program Accounting for acct. set-up and processing

Award Receipt

- Types of Awards
  - Grant
  - Cooperative Agreement
  - Contract

- Fixed price vs. Cost Reimbursable
Award Review & Acceptance

- PI should:
  - Review award
  - Complete OSP-1
  - Provide a copy of complete proposal submitted to sponsor
  - Provide revised budget/scope if applicable
  - Provide any objections to award terms

- OSP will coordinate with the PI and contact the Sponsor to negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement between the funding organization and the University.

- All special approvals are required before OSP will accept an award (i.e. IACUC, IRB, IRBRDS, Export Controls)

Account Setup

- Once award is fully-executed, it is sent to Sponsored Program Accounting (SPA) for account set-up.
- SPA will handle the post award financial administration of the award.
**Tentative Account Numbers**

- Allows PI to begin spending prior to receiving the fully executed award
- The request form must be approved by the PI’s department chair, who certifies that the department will be responsible for any unallowable charges, or for costs incurred should the project not be funded.
- The tentative number will be the account number
- Send completed Tentative Account Request form (AS494) to OSP
  - tentative accounts may not be established until all required Special Committee approvals are obtained (i.e. IACUC, IRB).

**Subaward Processing**

- PI submits OSP-3* form to OSP
- OSP drafts subaward and emails to PI
- PI/dept. load into PRO
- OSP obtains necessary signatures

*Subaward amendments are processed with OSP-4.
Post-Award Modifications

- At any time during the life of a sponsored project, a variety of modifications may be necessary.
- A request to modify any aspect of a sponsored project must be approved by OSP prior to submission to sponsor.

Prior approval requests to Sponsors

- Examples of the type of prior approval requests:
  - No-cost extension
  - Transfer of Award
  - Revised Budget
  - Change in Scope/PI Effort
  - Change in PI/Co-PI
  - Termination of Award
Some federal agencies have granted Universities “Expanded Authorities” to internally approve certain actions on federal grants and cooperative agreements.

Special restrictions in the award document take precedence over expanded authorities.

Internal Prior Approval Requests must be approved by OSP.
- Notification to sponsor may also be required.

Examples of the Expanded Authorities approvals include:
- Rebudgeting
- Additional compensation
- Pre-award costs
- First time no-cost extension (NCE) of up to 12 months
- Acquisition of special purpose equipment
- Acquisition of general purpose equipment when primary use is for technical activities of project.
- Alterations/Renovations
- Subcontracts not included in proposal

See Research Terms and Conditions Prior Approval Matrix for agency specific expanded authorities.
Other Training Opportunities

- Sponsored Programs System (SPS) Training
- Grants.gov Training
- Sponsored Programs New Developments and Important Reminders
- ORED Workshops Series
  - http://research.lsu.edu/workshops

OSP Contact Information

Location: 202 Himes Hall
Website: www.lsu.edu/osp
Phone: 578-2760
Fax: 578-2751
Email: osp@lsu.edu

Sign up for ASP Listserv:

Danielle Johnson: dwjohnson@lsu.edu
Rebecca Trahan: rtrahan@lsu.edu