

**OSU-Cascades F & A Return Policy** (Finance and Administration – formally known as Indirect Cost) (Approved February 15, 2015)

The continued expansion of research at OSU-Cascades will depend on our ability to create and support core faculty capabilities and commit resources to hire and retain the best faculty. We must foster a climate that rewards creative, high-impact research. (Adapted from the OSU Research Agenda)

One mechanism to reward faculty and support research is through an F&A return policy. For many federal grants, 46% is charged as F&A. F&A rates vary for different types of grants. OSU's main campus captures 74% of the F&A returned on grants and contracts. The remaining 26% is returned to the Cascades Campus and can be distributed to support research and other revenue generating activities.

Distribution Principles

1. F&A funds should be secured in a budget line that can roll over from year to year. The account will be named the Cascades Research Account.
2. PIs will receive an annually negotiated percentage of the F&A funds returned to Cascades to be placed in the PI's Research Account. For 2013-14, this amount was 15%. These funds must be used within one year, or with a pre-approved 1-3 year plan. These funds can be used for professional development, course release, or support for other research related activities that fall within university guidelines. PIs may elect to donate their funds to the Cascades Research Account for general grant support. When a faculty member leaves employment at Cascades, any remaining funds will be returned to the Cascades Research Account.
3. The goal of the Cascades Research Account is to: (a) support short term grant support needs, and (b) grow cumulatively to eventually provide permanent grant support at Cascades. Priorities for expenditures include (in rank order of priority):
  - Pre-award support, particularly in creating budgets, completion of forms, creation of sub-awards, and uploading grant materials into Cayuse
  - Post-award support, including accounting and uploading annual reports
  - Funds for graduate student stipends and/or tuition remission
  - Additional needs including seed funding for pilot projects, gap funding, or matching funds

Distribution Process

- While returns are low, priorities will be discussed with the grant and research active faculty. Decision making will lie with the VP, AVP of Finance, and Associate Dean supporting research.
- When returns are more robust, requests from individual researchers will be solicited and considered on a semi-annual basis, in June and again in December. PIs who have grants that have contributed to the Cascades Research Account may get priority in allocations.
- Annually, a report will be given to the faculty on F&A realized and allocated. At this time, the faculty will consider grant funding potential for the next year and recommend priorities for the coming year and PI return rate on the F&A returned to Cascades.
- When grant activity is sufficient and there are more faculty to share the responsibility, a faculty committee should take on the charge of considering and making recommendations on requests for funds from the Cascades Research Account.