Federal Research Terms and Conditions

Office for Sponsored Research
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Background

What are research terms and conditions?

• Initiated by FDP (Federal Demonstration Partnership) to align and simplify federal agency interpretation and implementation of OMB circulars to be consistent across funding agencies.
• Originally known as FDP terms and conditions.

Uniform Guidance: December 26, 2014

• June 4, 2015 Draft RTC
• October 14, 2015 published in the Federal Register, comments received and posted
• March 3, 2017 Final Notice of RTC published in the Federal Register
Agency Implementation

Not all agencies originally participating returned, most notably the Department of Defense, which implemented their own general terms and conditions (along with DoD agency specific terms and conditions).

Staggered implementation timeline.

- **Draft RTC**
  - June 2015

- **DOE, NSF, HHS/NIH**
  - April 2017

- **USDA/NIFA**
  - June 2017

- **DOC, NASA (FAA, DHS)**
  - October 2017

- **EPA**
  - December 2017
Northwestern Implementation

Account Code Workforce established

Reviewed prior approval matrix and previous iterations of standard account code lists.

Established an updated list of account codes to be opened on every award implementing RTC.

Effective December 2017

Identified other items of expense that could be included to improve award set up process—ongoing
# Standard Account Codes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Budget Category</th>
<th>Budget Item</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital Equipment(^1,(^2)</td>
<td>77500</td>
<td>EQUIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment Under $5000</td>
<td>77000</td>
<td>EQ&lt;5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect Costs(^3)</td>
<td>78700</td>
<td>FACADM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fringe Benefits</td>
<td>60180</td>
<td>FRINGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Personnel</td>
<td>60010</td>
<td>SALACAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Academic Personnel</td>
<td>60100</td>
<td>SALNONACAD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Academic Temp, Work Study</td>
<td>60210</td>
<td>SALOTHER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>75000</td>
<td>SERV</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>73000</td>
<td>SUPP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel, Domestic</td>
<td>76761</td>
<td>TRAVDOM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel, Foreign(^2)</td>
<td>76762</td>
<td>TRAVFOR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>78021</td>
<td>TUITIO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FDP/RTC “Auto-Open” List**

The following budget categories should be opened for all FDP/RTC projects as noted above:

1. It is uncommon for capital equipment to be purchased during the last 3 – 6 months of a project period without university and/or agency approval. Do not auto-open fabricated equipment, which requires separate approvals.
2. Must be specifically identified in the proposal budget to be opened at award set-up for DoD. Capital equipment and/or foreign travel are not opened for DoD awards unless prior written approval is obtained (prior approval waived for equipment under $25k).
3. Do not open on awards that do not have indirect costs.
Useful Information

National Science Foundation/RTC
https://www.nsf.gov/awards/managing/rtc.jsp

DoD general terms conditions

Federal Demonstration Partnership
http://sites.nationalacademies.org/pga/fdp/index.htm
Questions?