ORA-01-01 PI/PD ELIGIBILITY POLICY

ORA-01-01.01 Definitions

**Principal Investigator/Director (PI/PD):** This title identifies the individual responsible for the conduct of the sponsored project. The PI/PD is responsible for the intellectual content of the project, fiscal accountability, administrative aspects, and adherence to relevant policies and regulations.

**Co-Principal Investigator/Director (Co-PI/PD):** This designation refers to individuals who share responsibility for the project with the Principal Investigator/Director, and therefore carries the same requirements as those of the PI/PD.

**Co-Investigator (Co-I):** This title designates key personnel for a project, but does not include the oversight responsibilities of a Principal or Co-Principal Investigator/Director. The Co-I is considered key to performance of the project.

**Project Manager (PM):** This designation refers to an individual who accepts responsibility for the fiscal management of a grant account. It is not necessary for the PM to have a role in the sponsored project other than this internal responsibility for fiscal management. A PM must be named if the PI/PD is not eligible by virtue of their temporary or grant funded employment status with the university, and there is no Co-PI/PD on the project who can assume this responsibility.

**Regular Appointment Status:** A non-faculty appointment for which the employment relationship between the University and the employee is intended to last for an undetermined period of time and the position is funded by general or auxiliary University funds.

ORA-01-01.02 Reason for Policy

Proper management of grant funds is essential to uphold the fiduciary responsibilities of the University. Inappropriate charges could result in expenditures being disallowed and/or subsequent reduction in funding by the sponsoring agency. To insure proper oversight, an individual with permanent status at the university must be responsible for each grant account.

ORA-01-01.03 Policy

Principal Investigators (PI) on externally sponsored projects must hold a regular, tenure track faculty appointment or hold Regular Appointment status at The University of Akron (UA).

Project Directors (PD) on externally sponsored non research projects must hold a regular, tenure track faculty appointment or hold Regular Appointment status at UA.
An individual who is employed by UA on a Temporary Appointment or Sponsored Appointment may serve as a sponsored project PI or PD if any of the following conditions are met:

- **Research projects:** A regular UA tenure track faculty member is named Co-PI or Project Manager (PM) and he/she accepts fiscal responsibility for the project and ensures that project reporting requirements and deliverables are met. The PM does not need to be a Co-PI on the project.

- **Non research projects:** A UA tenure track faculty member or employee who holds a Regular Appointment is named Co-PD or Project Manager (PM) and he/she accepts fiscal responsibility for the project and ensures that project reporting requirements and deliverables are met. The PM does not need to be a Co-PI on the project.

- **The Chair / Director or Dean / Vice President of the UA unit under which the work is performed is designated as the Project Manager (PM), accepts fiscal responsibility for the project, and ensures that project reporting requirements and deliverables are met. The PM does not need to be a Co-PI on the project.**

Graduate students may serve as PI or PD—if permitted by the sponsor—only if a UA regular tenure track faculty member agrees to serve as the Co-PI or Co-PD or PM. The faculty member must agree to accept fiscal responsibility for the project and must ensure that project reporting requirements and deliverables are met.

Any exception to this policy must be approved in writing by the Director of Pre-Award Research Administration.

In all cases, signatures of all participants on the ORA Award Activation Form indicates acceptance of this policy.

Should a post-award change in personnel occur, the ORA must be notified and a revised Award Activation Form must be completed with the updated information.

Should the funder have more restrictive requirements regarding PI/PD eligibility, those requirements shall supersede this policy.