

Principal Investigator (or Co-PI) and Project Director (or Co-PD)



PURPOSE

The intent of this policy is to define eligibility for serving as a Principal Investigator (or Co-PI) and Project Director (or Co-PI).

DEFINITIONS

1. Principal Investigator or Project Director – a faculty member or employee that has the background and training in scientific research and project management necessary to conduct and manage a research program or project. A PI/PD is eligible to submit proposals for internal and external funding sources in support of research.
2. Co-PI or Co-PD – is secondary investigator that will share authority for leading and directing the research program or project.
3. Research – a systematic investigation, including research development, testing and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge. Activities which meet this definition constitute research for purposes of this policy, whether or not they are conducted or supported under a program which is considered research for other purposes. For example, some demonstration and service programs may include research activities.

POLICY

The goal is to ensure that the responsibility for setting the direction of research at the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine is entrusted with the faculty, who are primarily responsible for the quality and reputation of the research. Research and scholarship are an integral part of the mission statement at the Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine (ACOM). The research programs and projects at ACOM are designed by the faculty with a view toward advancing knowledge in their respective fields, impacting current healthcare, and improving medical and health sciences education for ACOM students and members of the Dothan, Wiregrass, and Alabama non-academic communities.

ACOM grants eligibility for PI or PD to the following:

1. Full time, salaried academics with the titles Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, or Clinical or Research Associate with an equivalent rank of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Professor are eligible to serve as principal investigator on proposals submitted to any internal or external funding program in support of research, training, or other ACOM sponsored activities.
2. When one of the above titles is held by someone who is not employed by ACOM, automatic PI eligibility is not granted. An individual who is not part of the faculty or an employee but wishes to obtain approval as a PI must apply for PI status.

3. Individuals without the titles listed above are not eligible to serve as a PI or PD but can apply to serve as a Co-PI or Co-PD with an individual who carries the appropriate rank.
4. Individuals without the titles listed above are not eligible to serve as a PI or PD unless a Request for PI Status Form has been submitted to provide a rationale for the individual to serve as principal investigator. The request must include a current CV and must be endorsed by the appropriate department chair or equivalent. If the individual has no prior experience as a principal investigator, the application should sufficiently outline the individual's qualifications to manage the specific research project. The department with which the individual is collaborating should also outline the resources they will provide in the course of the project.
5. This request must be submitted to the Dean's Office for endorsement - signature.