OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER

Policy and Procedure Updates
Sponsored Award Matters – Part 1
August 2025





Table of Contents

Policy and Procedure Purpose	3
FINA 3.50	8
FINA 3.40	11
FINA 3.00	16
Award Set-Up	20
Post Award Process	24
Cost Share	31
Training and Communication	38



Policy and Procedure Purpose



Purpose

Last fiscal year, the Controller's Office undertook a comprehensive policy and procedure update project.

This webinar series will provide a high-level overview of Controller's Office policies and procedures, including updates.





University Policies and Procedures

The <u>University-Wide Policies and Procedures Manual</u> is maintained by the Office of the Provost.

Controller's Office policies are captured in the Administrative and Finance section (FINA) and are also included in our Resources and Training Toolbox (Policies & Procedures section) along with accompanying procedures and appendices.



Policy and Procedure Basics



Policy

Details <u>what</u> is required by federal, state, local, and/or University requirements and best practices



Procedure

Accompanies policies and details how/ compliance with those requirements is achieved

Additional supplemental policies and procedures can be developed internally at the unit or departmental level, but they cannot contradict the overarching policies and procedures of the University.



Policies and Procedures

Policy	Procedure
FINA 3.50 – Pre-Award Financial Review of Nongovernmental Entities	Pre-Award Financial Review of Nongovernmental Entities
FINA 3.40 – Cost Accounting Standards	Cost Principles
FINA 3.00 – Sponsored Awards	 Award Set-Up – Coming Soon! Appendix C: Standard GFM Invoice and Backup – Coming Soon! Post Award Process Cost Share Appendix A: In-Kind Contributions Form

FINA 3.50 – Preaward Financial Review of Nongovernmental Entities



FINA 3.50 – Pre-Award Financial Review of Nongovernmental Entities

- When contracting with external sponsors, nongovernmental entities present the highest risk of nonpayment.
- A pre-award financial capability review should be completed by the Controller's
 Office prior to accepting these sponsored awards. This process includes gathering
 and assessing data on a sponsor's history of financial solvency.
 - This review will include an examination of the entity's audited financial statements using ratio analysis. Any past payment delinquencies or defaults will also be considered during the review.



FINA 3.50 Procedure – Pre-Award Financial Review of Nongovernmental Entities

- The University/departments should not enter into agreements with entities identified as high-risk unless all or a portion of the payment can be provided upfront.
- The Controller's Office maintains a list of high-risk nongovernmental entities, which is derived from the results financial capability reviews. This list is shared with the SAM Office and used to collaborate on award acceptance and payment terms.





FINA 3.40 – Cost Accounting Standards



FINA 3.40 – Cost Accounting Standards

2 CFR 200.419 requires the higher education institutions receiving more than \$50 million in federal awards to comply with the following cost accounting standards (CAS):



Estimating, Accumulating, and Reporting Costs

Sponsored award proposals/budgets should be established using the same methodologies and the same level of detail used to record and report actual costs (48 CFR 9905.501)



Unallowable Costs

Costs expressly unallowable or mutually agreed to be unallowable must be identified and excluded from any billing, claim, or proposal applicable to a sponsored award (48 CFR 9905.505)



Allocating Costs

Cost incurred for the same purpose, in like circumstances, must be given consistent treatment – all incurred costs are either direct costs only or indirect costs only (<u>48 CFR 9905.502</u>)

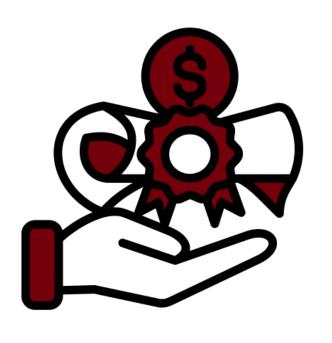


Accounting Period

An established, consistent cost accounting period must be used (48 CFR 9905.506) – July 1st through June 30th for the University



FINA 3.40 – Cost Accounting Standards



- In accepting a sponsored award, the University and PI assume responsibility for fulfilling the requirements of the program.
- The proper classification of expenditures (direct, indirect, unallowable) is a key component of CAS and of complying with the respective regulations.
- Expenditures incurred to meet cost sharing obligations require the same accounting, financial, legal, and regulatory practices as expenditures charged directly to sponsored awards.
- Noncompliance may result in financial penalties to the University and/or an impacted ability to qualify for future sponsored awards.



FINA 3.40 Procedure – Cost Principles

Direct costs must be specifically associated with a sponsored award and supported by proper documentation. If they are not, they must be treated as indirect costs.

The following cost principles <u>must</u> be met for an expenditure to be charged to a sponsored award (2 CFR 200.<u>403</u>, <u>404</u>, <u>405</u>, <u>419</u>).



Allowable: Permitted by regulations, the terms and conditions of the award, and University's policy/procedure and its negotiated indirect cost rate agreement.



Consistently treated: Costs incurred for the same purpose and in like circumstances are treated uniformly either as direct or indirect costs. Costs incurred for the same purpose in similar circumstances cannot be charged both directly and indirectly.



Reasonable: The nature and price of the goods/services and reflect the action that a prudent person would have taken.



Allocable: The goods/services can be directly charged or assigned to the award based on the benefit provided.



FINA 3.40 Procedure – Cost Principles

When charging non-salary administrative costs, such as general office supplies or utilities, to a sponsored award, these expenses must be clearly justified, thoroughly documented, and explicitly linked to the project's objectives within both the budget proposal and the award.

Unacceptable direct costing practices include:

- Rotating charges between awards without establishing a benefit.
- Assigning charges to awards simply to spend the remaining balance.
- Charging the budgeted amount rather than actual cost.
- Costs incurred outside the period of performance.

- Identifying a cost as something other than what it actually is.
- Charging expenses to a single award when the expense supported multiple awards.
- Improperly charging expenses associated with general administrative support (indirect costs).



South Carolina

FINA 3.00 – Sponsored Awards



FINA 3.00 – Sponsored Awards

FINA 3.00 incorporates and consolidates topics previously covered in **former** policies below:

- FINA 3.03 (Cost Sharing)
- FINA 3.09 (Consultant Services)
- FINA 3.15 (Closeouts)
- FINA 3.17 (Uncollectible Receivables)

- FINA 3.19 (Elimination of Account Overdrafts)
- FINA 3.21 (External Audit Policy for Grant Transactions and Activities [Restricted Accounts])

Significant restructuring occurred for the Sponsored Awards section during the policy/procedure update effort.



FINA 3.00 - Sponsored Awards

- Sponsored awards, regardless of the funding sources, should adhere to:
 - ❖ Uniform Guidance (2 CFR 200)
 - any applicable state laws/regulations

- sponsor requirements
- terms and conditions of the award
- Non-federal sponsored awards commonly refer to UG, making them subject to the same requirements of <u>2 CFR 200</u>.
- When procuring goods or services using sponsored funding, established federal, state, and
 University regulations must be adhered to. In grant administration, "following the more restrictive
 rule" means that when multiple sets of rules or regulations apply to a grant, the grant recipient
 must adhere to the rule that places greater limitations or requirements on their actions.
- The University is a U.S. dollar-based institution. As such, the University only accepts and invoices funds in U.S. dollars.



FINA 3.00 – Sponsored Awards

SAM Office

Manages **pre-award** functions:

- proposal prep
- award negotiations,
- post-award modifications (e.g., extensions, rebudgets)

Grants & Funds Management

Handles accounting and post-award

- management functions:
- award set-up in <u>PeopleSoft</u>
- invoicing
- financial reporting
- award close-out

Departments & Pls

Responsible for accurate and timely posting and monitoring of all expenditures, including cost share

Note: Departments must not send invoices directly to the sponsor. GFM submits system-generated invoices to the sponsor.



FINA 3.00 Procedure – Award Set-Up



FINA 3.00 Procedure – Award Set-Up

The terms and conditions of all sponsored awards must include acceptable invoicing terms, based on GFM's standard invoicing processes.

When sponsors will not accept standard invoicing terms after multiple attempts, any exceptions or non-standard terms will be documented within the Acknowledgement Form included in the award documentation. By signing this form, departments attest to the acceptance of any financial risk associated with terms or noncompliance.

GFM cannot invoice if:

- The sponsored award is not fully executed
- The project is overspent or on risk

- Expenditures are not posted to the general ledger
- The total expenses for the billing period are zero or a net credit

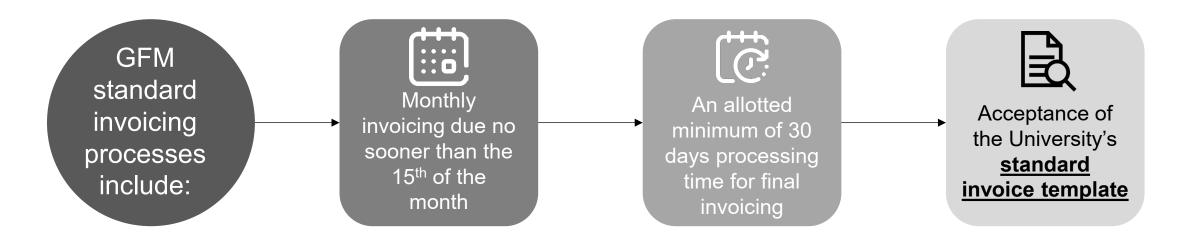


FINA 3.00 Procedure – Award Set-Up

- For projects that span multiple years, a new project number must be created for each budget year under specific circumstances to ensure proper tracking of funds, reporting, and compliance with fiscal regulations. Considerations include Restricted Carryforward, Milestone-Based or Phased Awards, and State Agency Requirements.
- A new project number must always be created when the funding agency issues a new grant or contract number, which is critical for financial clarity and audit readiness.
- Refer to the procedure for the roles and responsibilities of the SAM Office, GFM, and Pls and departments regarding award negotiation, award setup, award monitoring, invoicing, carryforward, and communication.



FINA 3.00 Appendix C – Standard GFM Invoice and Backup



When invoicing requirements fall outside GFM's standard invoicing practices, it is the department's responsibility to ensure the appropriate level of documentation is maintained. As such, the invoicing terms and conditions must be carefully reviewed and considered to ensure the department can reasonably comply.



FINA 3.00
Procedure – Post
Award Process



FINA 3.00 Procedure – Post Award Process

Incorporates topics previously covered in **former** policies:

- FINA 3.15 (Closeouts)
- FINA 3.17 (Uncollectible Receivables)
- FINA 3.19 (Elimination of Account Overdrafts)

This procedure details post-award topics such as award setup, financial management, invoicing and accounts receivable, reporting, and closeout, along with the roles and responsibilities of each party.



FINA 3.00 Procedure – Post Award Process Award Setup

Once the SAM Office has received all required award documents and the award is fully executed by both parties, it is sent to GFM for review and setup in PeopleSoft Finance. The setup process by GFM typically takes 5 – 10 business days.

The department should ensure full compliance with the Notice of Award by following the New Award Checklist for award startup and ongoing management.



FINA 3.00 Procedure – Post Award Process Financial Management



Monthly Monitoring and **Documentation**

 PI and Departmental grant support staff must monitor financial activity monthly and ensure supporting records meet sponsor requirements



End-of-Project Purchases

 Purchases in the final 90 days must be welldocumented to show direct project benefit



Risk Accounts

 If the award is not yet issued but work must start, request a <u>risk</u> account



Overdraft Responsibility

- Departments cover and resolve sponsored award overdrafts
- If not resolved within 21 days of PAA notification, the balance moves to a departmental account



FINA 3.00 Procedure – Post Award Process Invoicing and Accounts Receivable

Invoicing Requirements:

- All sponsored award invoicing must be completed by GFM
- GFM will only invoice for expenses posted to the project in PeopleSoft
- Departments must post expenses promptly to ensure timely reimbursement and accurate reporting

Accounts Receivable Monitoring:

- GFM monitors all outstanding balances
- If issues occur (e.g., unsubmitted reports, unallowable costs), the department is financially responsible for any uncollectible balance



FINA 3.00 Procedure – Post Award Process Reporting

- Reporting is how the University confirms to sponsors that resources have been used appropriately and in compliance with the terms and conditions of the award agreement.
- Financial reports prepared by GFM ensure that the information provided to the sponsor aligns with the University's general ledger.
 - In most cases, the PAA in GFM prepares financial reports without direct involvement from the department.
 Departments should not submit financial reports unless specifically requested to do so by GFM.
- Performance and technical reports are prepared by the PI and coordinated with SAM, as necessary. GFM must be contacted to provide any requested financial data.





FINA 3.00 Procedure – Post Award Process Closeout

- The PI and departmental grant support staff must confirm that all expenses are posted and that the project is complete, allowing GFM to complete the final invoices and any required final financial reporting.
- The University's financial records for sponsored awards will be closed by GFM once all accounts receivable have been collected, there is a zero cash balance, encumbrance and pre-encumbrance have cleared, and all reporting requirements have been met.
- Pls and departments should use the following Checklists to ensure appropriate and timely closeout:

90 Days Prior

30 Days Prior

15 Days After





- Incorporates topics previously covered in **former** policy FINA 3.03 (Cost Sharing)
- Cost share is the portion of sponsored award costs not provided/covered by the sponsor. Cost sharing occurs whenever a portion of the project costs are at the University's expense rather than at the expense of the sponsor.
- Cost share funds have the same restrictions as sponsored funds and must follow the same guidelines and restrictions included in the award.



Any shared cost, matching, and contributions, including cash and third-party in-kind contributions, can be accepted as part of the cost sharing requirement when all the following criteria are met:



Verifiable by University records.



Not included as contributions for any other sponsored award.



Defined as an acceptable form of cost-sharing for the specific project.



Exception: Only allowed if the program's authorizing statute explicitly permits federal funds to be used for cost sharing on other federal programs.



Provided for in the approved budget when required by the sponsor.



Conform to other provisions of 2 CFR 200.306.



Allowable, allocable, necessary, and reasonable for proper and efficient accomplishment of project objectives.



Types of cost share include:



Cost share that is required by the sponsor (e.g., specific dollar amount or percentage of total costs). It is considered a binding commitment to the University.



Strictly prohibited in proposal submission.

Committing a quantifiable amount of resources to a sponsored award in the proposal even though the sponsor does not explicitly state in the proposal guidelines that cost sharing is required.

Voluntary Uncommitted

Not required by the sponsor or detailed in the proposal but necessary to reflect actual effort and expenses (e.g., salary cap overages, cost overruns). Though uncommitted, sponsor-imposed limits (like salary caps) must be recorded as mandatory cost share.



The method of meeting cost share requirements is determined at the proposal stage and <u>must</u> be approved by the sponsor. The primary ways of meeting cost share requirements include:

Cash Match

01

Cash outlay by the University using departmental funds, sponsored award funds specifically designated for cost share, or external, third-party provided cash specifically designated for cost share.

Waived Indirect Cost (IDC)

02

When IDC is waived, the University agrees not to charge its federally negotiated IDC rate to the sponsor – the "unrecovered IDC" can be used as cost share if approved by the sponsor.

In-Kind Match

03

The value of non-cash contributions provided by an external, third-party (e.g., services, supplies, real property, equipment, etc.). Inkind match <u>cannot</u> come from internal, University sources.

Subrecipient Cost Share

04

Commitments, expenditures, or in-kind cost sharing made by subrecipients (for sponsored awards where the University is the prime awardee).



To qualify as cost share, contributions from other units (e.g., service centers) must:

- Be based on published rates
- Be explicitly recorded and tracked in the financial system

Non-Payroll

Cost share account codes are autogenerated in PeopleSoft Finance

Payroll

Departments must request combo codes via the <u>Cost Share Request</u> <u>Form</u>

Sponsors may withhold reimbursement if cost share is not met. Cost share must align in ratio with project spending over the life of the award. Pls and departments are responsible for:

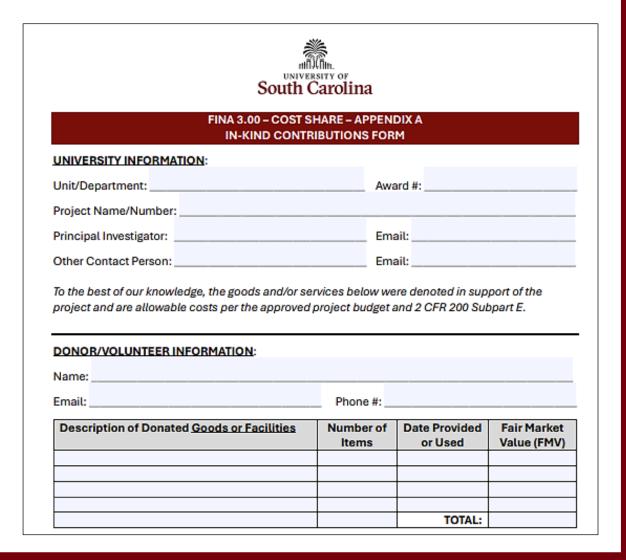
- Monitoring cost share
- Ensuring timely, consistent compliance



FINA 3.00 Appendix A – In-Kind Contributions Form

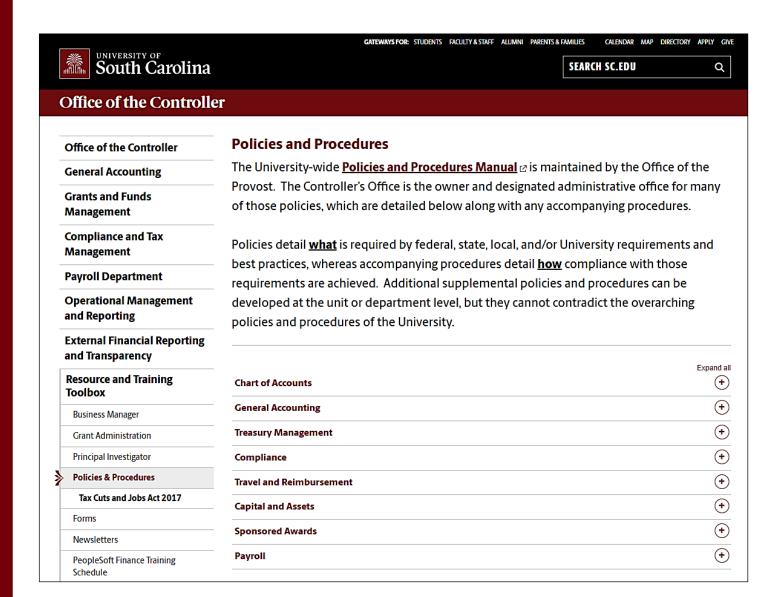
The fair market value of any in-kind goods and services from external, third-party sources used to meet cost sharing obligations must be readily determined, verified, thoroughly documented, and justified.

The <u>In-Kind Contributions Form</u> should be completed by the department and retained to support all in-kind contributions and submitted to GFM to record as in-kind cost share to the project.



Training and Communication

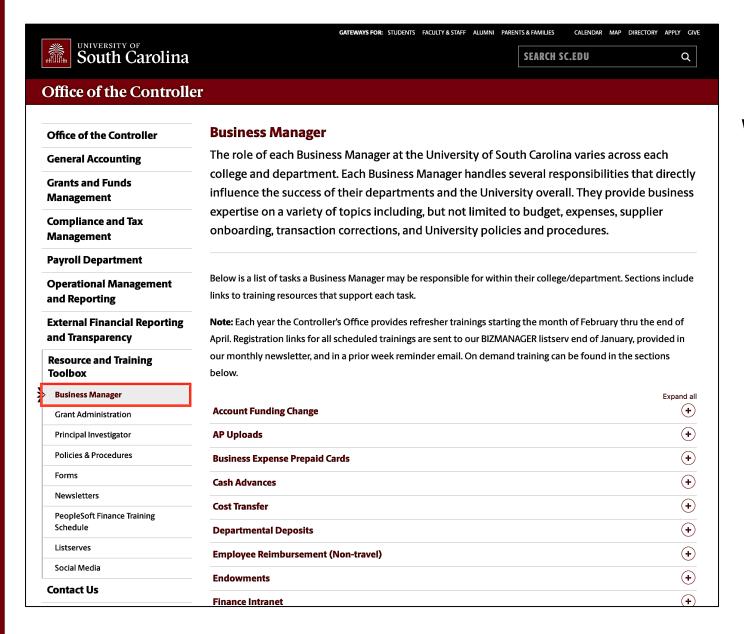




Where to Find the Resources

For Policy and
Procedure resources,
visit the Policies and
Procedures page found
in the Resource and
Training Toolbox section.





Where to Find the Resources

For training resources, visit our Business

Manager page in the Resource and Training Toolbox section.



Questions



Controller's Office Contact List

General Accounting (JEs, JVs, Apex, GL issues/Questions)	Email Address
General Email Address	genacctg@mailbox.sc.edu
Cash Advance Settlement	cashadvc@mailbox.sc.edu
Payroll Retro Journal Entries	retroje@mailbox.sc.edu
Chartfield Maintenance	cfmaint@mailbox.sc.edu
Moving & Relocation Mailbox	moving@mailbox.sc.edu
PeopleSoft Finance Security Requests	pssecure@mailbox.sc.edu
Accounts Payable	Email Address
Accounts Payable General Email Address	<u>ap@mailbox.sc.edu</u>
General Email Address	ap@mailbox.sc.edu
General Email Address AP Uploads	ap@mailbox.sc.edu apupload@mailbox.sc.edu
General Email Address AP Uploads Supplier Maintenance	ap@mailbox.sc.edu apupload@mailbox.sc.edu apsupplr@mailbox.sc.edu

Controller's Office Contact List

Capital Assets	Email Address
Physical Inventory	physinv@mailbox.sc.edu
Capital Leases	lease@sc.edu
Cash Management and Treasury	Email Address
General Treasury Email Address	treasury@mailbox.sc.edu
Program Expense Card	cards@mailbox.sc.edu
Team Card	teamcard@mailbox.sc.edu
Travel Card	travelcard@sc.edu
Compliance and Tax	Email Address
General Compliance Email Address	controllercompliance@sc.edu
General Tax Email Address	tax@mailbox.sc.edu
Research/Development Sales/Use Tax Exemptions	rdequip@mailbox.sc.edu
Time and Effort Reporting	timeandeffort@sc.edu

Controller's Office Contact List

Grants and Funds Management	Email Address
Sponsored Award Specific Questions	Contact your Post Award Accountant (PAA)
Payroll	Email Address
General Email Account	payroll@mailbox.sc.edu



THANK YOU!



Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much.

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