

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES

What is a COI?

Conflicts of interest, as described in university policies, may include outside financial interests and time commitment conflicts. When a conflict occurs, a person is serving or representing two conflicting interests or loyalties, which can interfere with the person's obligations to the university.

What is an outside activity?

An outside activity is a non-university activity including, but not limited to, employment, consulting, and business activities, as well as financial interests including stock, cash, and corporate interests.

Can UGA employees engage in outside activity?

Yes, while the outside activity must be disclosed pursuant to university policies, outside employment, consulting, and other activities may in fact serve the mission of the university and at the same time benefit employees by aiding in the development of expertise and dissemination of knowledge. Certain outside activities and financial interests may need to be disclosed, managed, and approved by the university before the activity begins.

What are UGA COI policies?

There are two primary UGA COI policies:

The [Policy on Conflicts of Interest in Sponsored Programs](#) applies to all employees who apply for and/or receive instruction, research, or service funding or other support from external agencies or organizations. This policy focuses on disclosure and management of Significant Financial Interests of the Investigator and of the Investigator's spouse and dependent children.

The [Conflicts of Interest, Conflicts of Commitment, and Outside Activities Policy](#) requires approval of Outside Activities and disclosure of Conflicts of Interest. This policy outlines the process for receiving permission to engage in Outside Activities and for disclosing Conflicts of Interest to your college, school or unit. Outside Activities must be approved before they commence and Conflicts of Interest must be disclosed at time of initial hire, at the time the need for disclosure arises, and annually during performance evaluations.

Is training available?

CITI Online Training is required for all Investigators on PHS grant and cooperative agreement proposals.

Who to contact?

For conflicts involving the disclosure of significant financial interests, please contact the Research Integrity Officer, Dr. Chris King, at cking@uga.edu or 706-542-5933 or the Assistant Research Integrity Officer, Dan Runge, at drunge@uga.edu or 706-542-4188.

For conflicts of interest, commitment, and outside activity approval, please contact your immediate supervisor and/or the Dean, Department Head, Vice President, Associate Provost or Director of your college, school, or unit of primary appointment.



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