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 Outside Activities/Consulting Policy (Section 1.07-4 of the Academic Affairs Policy Manual) provides guidance on conflicts of commitment. Academic units or other units at UGA may develop guidelines that extend or further define the requirement of the policy, with approval from the Provost's Office. This policy outlines the circumstances in which a faculty member may engage in outside work, including disclosure and approval before engaging in the outside work. When a Conflict of Commitment is identified, a management plan must be identified.

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 Associate Research Integrity Officer, Dan Runge, at drunge@uga.edu or 706-542-4188.

For conflicts of commitment, please contact your Dean (or Dean's Designee) or Vice President/Associate Provost/Director of your college/school/unit of primary appointment.