

Policy 20.1: PI Status

<i>Effective Date:</i>	November 27, 2017
<i>Last Updated:</i>	May 6, 2024
<i>Responsible:</i>	Office of Research Services (ORS)
<i>Contact:</i>	Director, Office of Research Services

Reason for Policy

Because sponsored research is at the core of the University’s mission, it is essential that highly-qualified individuals are designated to serve in the role of principal investigator in a manner consistent with the UNC [Board of Governors’ policy regarding the appropriateness of University Research](#), and aligned with the University’s policy on ethics in research.

Policy Statement

All full-time faculty and postdoctoral scholars are eligible to serve as Principal Investigators (PIs) on externally sponsored research projects.

EHRA Staff, part-time faculty, or SHRA Staff may be granted PI status on a “Limited” (per-project) or “Blanket” (up to five years) basis with permission of the department chair and dean. (See procedures below.)

Phased Retirement: A faculty member going on phased retirement could serve as PI on a grant, with permission of the chair and dean, as long as research is included in the duties listed in the 50% work plan required for moving to phased retirement status. Faculty members on phased retirement whose retirement plans are with the State of North Carolina cannot earn additional income as a PI.

Emeritus Status: Emeritus faculty will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and PI status could be granted with the approval of the dean and the Vice Chancellor for Research.

Procedures

Limited PI Status Request

Complete the “Request for Limited PI Status” form and have it signed by the department chair and dean. The signed form must be uploaded to Niner Research before the proposal is routed for approvals.

Blanket PI Status Request

Colleges may approve PI status for an individual for a defined period of time at the request of a department or center. If approved by the dean, this status would allow an investigator to submit proposals without requesting documentation every time. To request Blanket PI Status, route a copy of the “Request for Blanket PI Status” form signed by the department chair to the dean’s office staff prior to the submission of any proposals. Staff approved for Blanket Status should upload the signed “Request for Blanket PI Status” form to Niner Research before the proposal is routed for approvals.

The department/center and college should internally track the individuals for whom they have approved this arrangement and the approved time frames. Each PI given Blanket Status must have his or her qualifications re-evaluated at least once every five years.

The Limited and Blanket PI Status Forms should address the following criteria at a minimum:

1. Record of increasing responsibility serving as Co-Investigator or collaborator on grants or contracts awarded to and carried out at UNC Charlotte.
2. Demonstrated ability to carry out responsibilities of PI, including:
 - a. meeting stated programmatic objectives of projects
 - b. administrative management of projects (financial and personnel management).

Exclusions/Exceptions

Related Information

[Limited PI Status Request Form](#)

[Blanket PI Status Request Form](#)