

I. Introduction

The TCU Office of Research is committed to safeguarding the rights and welfare of all individuals who serve as subjects in research conducted by agents of the University. This policy identifies the requirements for PI Eligibility on projects and proposals, funded or otherwise, involving review and approval involving human subjects.

II. Definitions

Principal Investigator (PI). The individual responsible for the administrative and programmatic aspects of the Research. Every Research project must have a designated PI and the PI must have the technical competence and substantive capabilities (scientific, administrative, and otherwise) to carry out the project, while adhering to all University policies and any applicable regulations.

Co-Investigator (Co-I). As an investigator on a project, this individual is responsible for conducting research in accordance with University rules and regulations. Individuals serving in this role must be approved by the normal administrative channels. The Co-I is also obligated to ensure the project is conducted in compliance with applicable laws and regulations and institutional policy governing the conduct of research.

III. Applicability

This policy applies to all TCU faculty and staff and others conducting research at or on behalf of TCU including, but not limited to, employees, staff, volunteers, and students.

IV. Policy Requirements

- A. Tenured, tenure-track, non-tenured TCU faculty, Assistant, Associate and Full Professors, Clinical Faculty, Adjunct faculty, visiting faculty (for term of appointment) and Senior Administrative Staff (Director, Dean or higher equivalent) are eligible to serve as principal investigator (PI) for institutional research conducted at TCU.
- B. Graduate and undergraduate students will not be permitted to serve as a PI for research protocols reviewed and approved by the IRB. In the case of TCU employees who meet some of the above-mentioned criteria who are conducting a research project as fulfillment of their graduate obligation or training, their faculty advisor must serve as PI.
- C. Newly hired faculty/researchers may request temporary PI status and may submit proposals/transfer application without a TCU Co-I as long as the projects start date is after their official start date. After their official start date, PI status becomes automatic.

V. Enforcement

Failure to comply with this Policy could result in disciplinary action, including termination of employment.

VI. Questions/Reports

If you have any questions about this Policy or would like to report a potential violation, please contact the RIO. Reports regarding violations of this Policy may be submitted anonymously by using the independent Ethics and Compliance Hotline at 1-877-888-0002.

VII. Policy Sponsor

Associate Provost for Research

VIII. Related Policies and Procedures

Code of Conduct
Human Subject Research Oversight and Monitoring Policy
Protection of Human Subjects in Research

IX. History

Effective Date: June 1, 2020

Last Revised Date: