

Policy Name	<b>RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION</b>		
Policy #	901	Category	900 RESEARCH
Steward	VP, External Relations	Date Approved	July 1, 2023
Next Review Date		Date Reviewed or Revised	

## **POLICY**

This policy outlines the administrative framework for conducting Applied Research at the College.

The purpose is to set out the authority, responsibility, and procedures for research activity at the College.

## **PRINCIPLES**

1. The College supports a research approach which is a process of discovering, interpreting, applying, and disseminating new knowledge and is directed toward the enhancement and support of college programs, services, and learning environment. Those involved in research commit to the following:
  - 1.1 Involve students in research activities to provide them with new and enhanced opportunities for learning;
  - 1.2 Work to enhance the knowledge and experience of employees, and work to enhance the College's reputation;
  - 1.3 Strive to create enhanced learning environments through the enriched opportunities-oriented research provides;
  - 1.4 Establish collaborative, mutually beneficial arrangements and/or partnerships with local business, academic, governmental and non-governmental organizations wherever possible;
  - 1.5 Any work done will adhere to the highest ethical principles and standards.
2. To ensure human ethical standards have been met, all research activities involving human subjects must be vetted by the Internal Research Ethics Board (REB) or the University of Regina REB prior to commencement to ensure human ethical standards have been met.
3. All research activities must receive appropriate College approval prior to the commencement of any research activities associated with the College.

4. To ensure that all funds received for the purpose of conducting applied research are administered according to the requirements of the funding agency and meet all acceptable accounting procedures.

## **SCOPE**

All research personnel who participate in applied research activities conducted under the auspices of the Applied Research Centre (ARC).

## **DEFINITIONS**

Applied Research Lead	An administrative employee at the ARC responsible for preparing research grant applications, administering grants and guiding Research Personnel on grant usage. The Applied Research Lead is a key contact for external clients participating in Research Projects.
Collaborative Research Agreements	Collaborative Research Agreements (CRA) relate to written agreements between the College and Clients that delineate the terms, rights and responsibilities of each party of a research project undertaken collaboratively between the College and the Client.
First Contact Form	A form used to formally document a request from a Client to undertake applied research with the College.
Granting Agency	A private or public organization that provides financial support for research projects to private or public organizations.
Grant Application	A proposal developed with Research Personnel that is submitted to a Granting Agency for the purpose of securing funds for a research project or program.
In Class Project (ICP)	A Research Project conducted in a course as part of an academic program for which students receive academic credit. Professors generally are assigned such courses as part of their standard workload.
Letter of Support	A document provided by the College to other institutions and clients indicating the College's support for a research proposal being submitted to a funding organization. The Letter of Support may indicate the contributions the College will provide in the event the proposal is successful.

Principal Investigator	A person assigned to be the technical lead on a research project; the person may also supervise students and other research persons as required.
Research Ethics Board (REB)	The College does not presently have its own Research Ethics board. The College has entered an agreement with University of Regina and all policies, appeals and responsibilities of the board are mandated by the University of Regina.
Research Personnel	All College employees, full-time and part-time, permanent or temporary; and all students and volunteers working on Research Projects.
Research Program	A research endeavour that encompasses many projects funded through a single grant that is managed and disbursed by PARC.
Research Project	A research endeavour that encompasses a set of activities designed to address a single question or objective or closely related research questions or objectives.
Standalone Project (SAP)	A Research Project conducted outside of a course for which students are employed by the College and may receive academic credit (e.g. Co-op or field placement). Faculty are not engaged through a standard workload assignment, but through a release or as otherwise provided for by the Collective Agreement. Part-time faculty may also be employed by the College on these projects
Research Volunteer	Students or other persons who participate in ICPs or SAPs, but are not employed by the College nor receive academic credit.

## PROCEDURES

### 1. Role of the Applied Research Centre (ARC)

Under the direction of its Coordinator, the ARC develops and supports applied research and scholarly activity conducted by the College's researchers, instructors, and students; administers grant and contract research activity; provides applied research, technology transfer and advisory services to the College's technical, business, and service communities; and joins in partnerships, alliances, and joint ventures to support applied research activities with others who share the College's vision.

## **2. Responsibilities of the Applied Research Centre**

2.1 Provides services to assist in developing the College's research capacity. This includes:

- a) Locating funding support for research in the form of grants and contracts;
- b) Working closely with the Academic Area on professor engagement, client development and student involvement;
- c) Liaising with other research institutions;
- d) Assisting governments, industry, and other agencies sponsoring research in the College;
- e) Administering research grants and contracts, and
- f) Assisting in technology transfer.

2.2 Establishes strategic directions for the College research agenda in consultation with other College departments and external partners.

2.3 Ensures that the College has appropriate research policies and that those policies are followed by all Research Personnel.

2.4 Keeps the College community informed of research policies and practices of governments and other research sponsors.

2.5 Promotes the research capabilities of the instructors, researchers, employees and students of the College.

2.6 Writes, and assists instructors, employees, students and clients with research proposals and funding applications.

2.7 Protects and commercially exploits innovations arising out of College research.

2.8 Assists College staff in pursuing strategic research goals.

2.9 Develops and disseminates information on sources of external research funds, research project grants and contracts.

2.10 Develops research links with other research institutions, government and the private sector.

2.11 Establishes procedures for approval of applications for research grants and contracts from external agencies and bodies.

2.12 Administers research grants and research contracts awarded to the College.

- 2.13 Works with college communications personnel to ensure Granting Agencies receive appropriate acknowledgement in publications, announcements, events, and on equipment and facilities acquired with research funds.

### **3. Research Practices**

- 3.1 All research conducted at the College or using College facilities under an agreement with the College shall conform to the College research policies on integrity, human subjects, animal care, radiation safety, biohazards safety, ethics, conflict of interest, intellectual property and all other applicable policies.
- 3.2 The College and its researchers shall strive to obtain the greatest possible economic benefit from its research activities
- 3.3 All research at the College shall be conducted under a research agreement which includes specific language relating to intellectual property and commercialization.
- 3.4 All researchers shall disclose to the College intellectual property with commercial potential arising from research should they decide to pursue commercialization.
- 3.5 No research or other study involving human subjects, animals, radiation or biohazards may be undertaken unless requirements listed in the appropriate College policies have been met, and the appropriate certificates of approval have been issued where required.
- 3.6 All researchers shall disclose any and all conflicts of interest as defined in College policies.
- 3.7 Grant and contract funds shall be held in trust by the College and are not the property of any individual.
- 3.8 Letters of Support from the College to non-College collaborators for research grant or research contract applications shall be signed by the Applied Research Lead, ARC. The Applied Research Lead, at his/her discretion, may request a letter to be signed by a Vice President or the President.
- 3.9 Only the College has the legal authority to enter into contracts which are binding on the College; such contracts must be executed by the President or Vice President External Relations, International and Applied Research of the College or a Presidential designate thereof.

3.9.1 Research agreements executed between a Client and the College using the College’s standard Collaborative Research Agreement can be signed on behalf of the College by Signing Authorities as designated

**4. Research Grant and Research Contract Administration**

4.1 The College is responsible for research grant and contract administration including:

- Following required proposal approval processes and authority levels;
- Assisting College staff in the preparation of research grant applications or research contracts;
- Interpreting and clarifying research grant or research contract awards, procedures and conditions;
- Reviewing research grant applications or research contracts for conformity to the policies of the Granting Agency and the College.

4.2 The College may apply for research grants to develop a Research Program. When the funds are entrusted to the care of the College for disbursement and management, the College shall develop policies and procedures to ensure that such funds are utilized as intended by the Grant Agency and delineated in any research agreements with the Grant Agency.

4.2.1 Every application for funding from a grant managed by the College shall be signed by the Client, the Principal Investigator, the Project Manager and the Coordinator of the Applied Research Centre.

4.2.2 If the application is successful, contracts signed between the College and the Client shall be duly authorized.

4.3 Every application or proposal for Research Program or Research Project grants or contracts (new or renewal) from an external source, that is not managed by the College, shall be signed by the requisite authorities as shown in the table:

Authority	Value of Grant of Contract Application to College (\$)		
	0-25,000	20,001-99,999,000	100,000+
Principal Investigator	X	X	X
Project Manager	X	X	X
Applied Research Lead	X	X	X
Vice President		X	X
President			X

- 4.3.1 If the applications are successful, any contracts signed between the College, Grant Agency and/or Client shall be duly authorized as per authorities grid
- 4.4 The College is responsible for providing financial oversight, budget administration and reporting for the College's research activities including:
  - 4.4.1 Liaising with the Finance Department to establish research accounts and auditable records;
  - 4.4.2 Validating research expenditures against approved budgets on a schedule that is in accordance with the Granting Agency's policies; reporting deviations from proposed activities or budgets to Granting Agencies while at the same time ensuring that signing authority for expenditures is consistent with the Granting Agency's guidelines;
  - 4.4.3 Tracking in-kind contributions of the College and industry partners and maintaining auditable records;
  - 4.4.4 Reporting on the financial status of research projects;
  - 4.4.5 Maintaining records of all research activities, funds received and distributed.

## **5. Involvement of Students**

- 5.1 The Applied Research Centre is responsible for overseeing the participation of students engaged in college research activities including:
  - 5.1.1 Protecting students engaged in research activities in In-Class Projects (ICPs) and Stand-Alone Projects (SAPs).
  - 5.1.2 Ensuring that all students engaged in research activities ICPs and SAPs sign a research agreement with the College which includes specific language relating to client confidentiality, intellectual property, commercialization rights, research duties and terms of employment as applicable.
- 5.2 A third party engaging students in applied research projects conducted under the auspices of the Applied Research Centre must enter into a research agreement with the College which includes specific language relating to client confidentiality, intellectual property, commercialization rights, student's research duties and terms of employment as applicable. Students who are employed by the College to work on research projects are not required to sign separate agreements with the third

party but will be protected under and responsible for the research agreement they have signed with the College.

- 5.3 The Applied Research Centre shall maintain a record of such research agreements.
- 5.4 Where students are working with a third party on research projects as part of their course requirements or as volunteers and are not being paid by the College for their work, the College will not be held responsible for breaches of confidentiality. In cases where the third party requires a Confidentiality Agreement, such agreements shall be negotiated between the third party and the students working on the project. The College will provide templates and non-legally binding guidance to both parties.

#### **LEGISLATIVE AND COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT REFERENCES**

N/A

#### **LINKS TO OTHER RELATED POLICIES, DOCUMENTS AND WEBSITES**

- Research
- Integrity in Research
- Research involving Human Subjects
- Intellectual Property
- First Contact Form
- Confidentiality Agreement Template
- Research Collaboration Agreement Template
- New Applied Research Project Proposal Approval Process Flow Chart
- New Applied Research Project Proposal Approval Form
- This policy is based on a similar policy from Algonquin College.