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## **AWARDS: GRANTS VS. GIFTS**

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**Category:** Research

**Responsible Office:** Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP)

**Responsible Administrator:** Associate Provost for Research Development  
and Administration

**Date Established:** 01/30/2019

**Date Last Revised:** 07/16/2024

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### **Summary**

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The guidance in this document will assist in determining if an award is a “Grant” (also referred to as a ‘sponsored program’), to be administered by the Office for Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) in accordance to policies established by The Research Foundation of SUNY (RF), or is a “Gift”, which can be administered by either ORSP/RF or managed by the Oswego University Foundation, Inc.

In instances where it is not readily apparent if the award is a “Grant” or when a “Gift” is received, ORSP and the Oswego University Foundation, Inc. will collaborate to review the award and associated documentation and make the appropriate determination.

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### **Policy**

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#### **POLICY STATEMENT**

##### **Gift**

A gift is an award typically with the following characteristics:

- Irrevocable transfer of funds or other valuable articles
- No expectation that unused funds will be returned to the donor at the end of the project period
- Unrestricted/restricted use of funds
- No donor-imposed time limits relating to use of funds
- No deliverables or benefits expected by the donor
- Can support a sponsored program (to be administered by ORSP/RF)
- Can benefit a non-sponsored program (managed by the Oswego University Foundation, Inc.)

##### **Grant**

An award in the form of a grant, cooperative agreement contract, or sponsored research agreement is often made in response to a proposal submitted to a sponsor to accomplish a specific statement of work and commitment to a particular project. There is usually a reciprocal benefit associated with this type of award.

Awards that meet one or more of the following criteria are generally considered a grant/sponsored program.

- Funding source is federal, state, or local government agency, or flow-through from these agencies. ALL federal awards must be administered by ORSP. Other funding sources can include, but are not limited to, foundations, companies, or organizations. (Exception: Occasionally SUNY System awards are administered by the SUNY Oswego Finance Department.)
- Funds can be revoked in whole or in part.
- Unexpended funds often must be returned to the sponsor at the end of the project period.
- Application is submitted to sponsor that includes budget, scope of work, etc.
- Programmatic task performance or programmatic goal achievement is to occur during a specified or limited time period.
- Project involves testing or evaluation of proprietary products.
- Sponsor has specific requirements stating a precise scope of work to be performed or general support for an area of research.
- Sponsor requires or expects deliverables and/or technical and financial reports (beyond what is normally provided for good donor stewardship).
- Sponsor articulates terms and conditions that can include, but are not limited to:
  - Indemnity
  - Export control
  - Financial and performance
  - Intellectual property (e.g., patent rights requested by grantor)
  - Ownership or use of data
  - Sponsor imposes prior approval requirements (e.g., budget, work performed, changes in personnel, etc.)
- Sponsor requires periodic reporting before future funds are released.

Awards meeting one or more of these criteria would be considered a grant/sponsored program that would be administered by ORSP on behalf of The Research Foundation for SUNY. Any proposals with such conditions would need to be submitted to the sponsoring organization by ORSP with The Research Foundation for SUNY as the official applicant.

## **APPLICABILITY**

This clarifying policy applies to all awards made to SUNY Oswego and its affiliates.

## **RESPONSIBILITY**

### **Who should know this policy**

- President
- Provost
- Vice Presidents and Assistant/Associate Provosts
- Deans and Associate Deans
- Department Chairs

**Who should know this policy (cont.)**

- Faculty
- Office of Research and Sponsored Programs staff
- Oswego University Foundation staff

**Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP)**

- Review, submit, and administer all grants/sponsored programs awarded to SUNY Oswego faculty and staff (Exception: Occasionally, SUNY System awards are administered by the SUNY Oswego Finance Department)

**Oswego University Foundation, Inc.**

- Accept restricted and unrestricted gifts
  - Provide investment management, general administration services, accounting, gift processing and database management relating to gifts and donors, including the production of reports for account holders
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**Contact Information**

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