

Memorandum

To: University Research Community

From: Roberto M. Gutierrez
Assistant Vice President for Research
Office of Research and Economic Development

Subj.: NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) Program (R15) Eligibility

Date: April 23, 2015

The NIH has released its annual list of ineligible institutions for submission of applications in response to the NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) Program (R15). For the period of April 2015 through March 2016, the only FIU units eligible to submit AREA applications are those units located in the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences and Robert Stempel College of Public Health & Social Work. All other units in the university are ineligible to apply for AREA grants at this time.

To be eligible for an AREA grant, an institution may not receive more than \$6 million per year in NIH support in each of 4 of the last 7 years. For institutions composed of multiple schools or colleges, the criterion of financial eligibility is not based on the amount of NIH support received by the institution as a whole. Instead, the individual health professional schools/colleges and "other academic components" (as defined below) are considered independently.

Health professional schools or colleges include accredited public or non-profit private schools that provide training leading to a degree related to the health sciences granted by that school (e.g., PhD, MD, DDS, MPT, DC, ND, and BSN). The NIH defines it as schools or colleges of medicine, dentistry, osteopathy, pharmacy, nursing, veterinary medicine, public health, optometry, allied health, chiropractic, naturopathy, and podiatry. Once the health professional schools have been excluded, "other academic components" refer to all remaining schools and colleges of the institution taken as a SINGLE component defined as "Other Academic."

The NIH evaluates the list of ineligible schools on annual basis and releases every year an updated list in mid-April. The Office of Research and Economic Development will monitor the list and announce any changes next year in mid-April should it be warranted.

Additional information regarding AREA Program Eligibility is available at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/area.htm>. Please note that AREA Program Eligibility and other items of interest will be discussed at our upcoming Quarterly Research Administrator's Meeting (GRAM) scheduled for April 28, 2015 from 10 am– 12 noon in the MARC Pavilion.

If you have any questions about this guidance from the NIH, please feel free to contact your Pre-Award representative (<http://research.fiu.edu/dor/pages/staff-directory.html>) at 305-348-2494 for further assistance.