TIP SHEET- **PI Eligibility Guidance**

Principal Investigator Eligibility at UCI Health

A guide for Principal Investigators and Without Salary Physicians

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July 2026

This document provides guidance regarding eligibility to serve as a Principal Investigator (PI) on research or training grants and contracts at the University of California. It also clarifies the research roles available to Without Salary (WOS) physicians.

Eligible Principal Investigator Title Groups

Under UC Office of the President (UCOP) Contract & Grant Manual Chapter 1-500, only specific title series are automatically eligible to serve as Principal Investigator. The following title groups are eligible to submit proposals for research or training contracts or grants.

1. **Members of the Academic Senate, including emeriti.**
2. **Appointees in the Agronomist series, including emeriti.**
3. **Appointees at 50 percent or more of full time in the Adjunct Professor series.**
   Titles (and ranks) in this series are:
   - Adjunct Instructor
   - Assistant Adjunct Professor
   - Associate Adjunct Professor
   - Adjunct Professor
4. **Appointees at 50 percent or more of full time in the Health Sciences Clinical Professor series.**
   Titles (and ranks) in this series are:
   - Health Sciences Clinical Instructor
   - Health Sciences Assistant Clinical Professor
   - Health Sciences Associate Clinical Professor
   - Health Sciences Clinical Professor
5. **Appointees at 50 percent or more of full time in the Professional Research series.**
   Titles (and ranks) in this series are:
   - Assistant Professional Researcher, I-VI
   - Associate Professional Researcher, I-V
   - Professional Researcher (for purposes of this Article, referred to as “Full”), I-IX
6. **Appointees at 50 percent or more of full time in the Specialists in Cooperative Extension series.**
   Titles (and ranks) in this series are:
   - Assistant Specialist in Cooperative Extension
   - Associate Specialist in Cooperative Extension
   - Specialist in Cooperative Extension

Research Roles for Non-Eligible (WOS) Physicians

Permitted Research Activities:
Serve as Co-Investigator / Sub-Investigator (set up at sub-award).
Participate in protocol development.
Provide clinical expertise.
Collaborate under an eligible UC PI.

Activities Not Permitted:

X Serve as PI on grants or contracts.
X Submit proposals independently.
X Lead IRB protocols.
X Hold sponsor agreements.

Dean's Exception Process

In rare circumstances, exceptions to PI eligibility may be considered. Such exceptions require formal review and approval by the SOM Dean and must align with UCOP policy and campus procedures.

Departments should consult with Shauna Stark, Asst Dean of Research Operations, for questions regarding the exception process and requirements.

Summary Guidance

- **Clinical privilege ≠ research eligibility**
- PI eligibility is governed by the UCOP title series and appointment percentage.
- WOS physicians may meaningfully participate in research but cannot independently lead sponsored projects.
- Early consultation with Dean's office is recommended when structuring collaborations involving WOS faculty.

UCOP Policy regarding PI eligibility can be found at https://www.ucop.edu/research-policy-analysis-coordination/resources-tools/contract-and-grant-manual/chapter1/chapter-1-500.html