

## **TIGER TIPS**

# **RESOURCES FOR AUBURN RESEARCHERS**

### **Changes to the NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA)/R15 Program**

As announced in guide notice [NOT-OD-19-015](#), the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has shifted its approach to how it utilizes the R15 activity code. Research enhancement opportunities will now be split between two distinct programs: the Academic Research Enhancement Awards (AREA) will be reserved for grants to undergraduate-focused institutions that do not receive substantial funding from NIH; and the Research Enhancement Award Program (REAP) that will support graduate schools of arts and sciences and health professional schools that grant baccalaureate or advanced degrees.

The goals of the R15 program are to: support meritorious research, expose students to research, and strengthen the research environment of an institution.

It is important to note that each funding opportunity announcement includes detailed eligibility information that **supersedes** any general information listed here.

Eligibility for the Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) program for undergraduate-focused institutions requires that:

- The applicant institution must be an accredited public or non-profit private school that grants baccalaureate degrees in biomedical sciences.
- At the time of application submission, all the non-health professional components of the institution together have not received support from the NIH totaling more than \$6 million per year (in both direct and F&A/indirect costs) in 4 of the last 7 fiscal years.
- A signed letter is required from the Provost or *similar official* with institution-wide responsibility verifying the eligibility of the applicant institution at the time of application submission. For Auburn University, this letter will be signed by the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) and should be coordinated through the [Office of Sponsored Programs](#) (OSP) or College-level Designee as applicable.

Organization eligibility for the Research Enhancement Award Program (REAP) program for health professional schools and graduate schools require that:

- The applicant organization must be an accredited public or non-profit private school that grants baccalaureate or advanced degrees in health professions or advanced degrees in biomedical and behavioral sciences.
- At the time of application submission, the applicant institution may not have received support from the NIH totaling more than \$6 million per year (in both direct and F&A/indirect costs) in 4 of the last 7 fiscal years. Note that all activity codes are included in this calculation except the following: C06, S10, and all activity codes starting with a G.

◦A signed letter is required from the Provost or similar official with institution-wide responsibility verifying the eligibility of the applicant institution at the time of application submission. For Auburn University, this letter will be signed by the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) - **unless the specific solicitation requires the letter be from the Provost** - and should be coordinated through the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) or College-level Designee as applicable.

Auburn University currently meets the eligibility requirements for both the AREA and REAP programs, however specific program announcements/solicitations from NIH institutes/centers may have additional requirements/limitations so it is important to ensure that you read these documents carefully. Questions regarding eligibility may also be directed to the appropriate College-level designee or [Contract Administrator](#) in OSP.

**Additional Resources:**

Notice Number: [NOT-OD-19-015](#)

NIH Extramural Nexus: [Changes to the R15 Academic Research Enhancement Award \(AREA\), and Introducing the R15 Research Enhancement Award Program \(REAP\)](#)

NIH Research Enhancement Award (R15) [Website](#)

Frequently Asked Questions: [Academic Research Enhancement Awards](#)

NIH Guide to Grants and Contracts: [Current R15 Funding Opportunities](#)