SUMMARY:

This policy aims to promote objectivity in research by increasing transparency and accountability in the progressively more complex relationships among researchers, research institutions, research sponsors and the private sector.

POLICY:

I. As an integral part of its institutional mission, Coastal Carolina University upholds the principles of free and unbiased inquiry, transfer of ideas and technologies for public benefit, and stewardship of the resources entrusted to it. As faculty and employees increasingly build complex relationships with private companies, financial and other internal and external relationships must not conflict nor appear to conflict with these principles.

A. The following conditions are not generally considered evidence of a financial conflict of interest (FCOI):
   1. salary, royalties, or other remuneration from CCU;
   2. ownership interest in an entity funded through the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) or Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs;
   3. income from seminars, lectures or teaching engagements sponsored by public, nonprofit or not-for-profit entities;
   4. income from service on advisory committees or review panels for public entities or nonprofit or not-for-profit entities NOT affiliated with for-profit companies;
   5. an equity interest that, when aggregated for the investigator and the investigator’s spouse and dependent children, does not exceed $5,000 in value as determined by public prices or other reasonable measures of fair market value, and does not represent more than $5,000 in family members’ aggregate ownership interest in any single, publicly traded entity (note: no exclusion for interest in a non-publicly traded company); and
6. salary, royalties, or other payments (excluding dividends) from a single corporate entity that, when aggregated for the investigator and the investigator’s spouse and dependent children over the next 12 months, are not expected to exceed $5,000.

B. Procedures – Prior to submitting a sponsored proposal, all investigators must disclose to the University any significant financial interest they or any member of their immediate family have in any commercial enterprise or with members of the research team that will in any way influence the proposed sponsored program or be affected by its performance or completion. The Vice President for Research or designee will review each disclosure to determine any financial conflicts of interest, real or potential, and, in collaboration with the University Research Council and the investigator, design a plan to manage, reduce or eliminate them.

II. RELATED INFORMATION

A. The following links aim to accurately describe and promote compliance with the financial conflict of interest policies related to sponsored activity of Coastal Carolina University.

2. National Science Foundation (NSF)
   a. NSF "Investigator Financial Disclosure Policy"
   b. NSF "Frequently Asked Questions Concerning the DHHS Objectivity in Research Regulations and the NSF Investigator Financial Disclosure Policy"
   a. 34 CFR Part 74, Subpart C § 74.42, Codes of Conduct
   b. 34 CFR Part 75, Subpart E § 75.525, Conflict of interest: Participation in a project
   a. 42 CFR Part 50, Subpart F, Responsibility of Applicants for Promoting Objectivity in Research for which Public Health Service Funding is Sought.
   b. 45 CFR Part 94, Responsible Prospective Contractors