

POLICY STATEMENT

Policy Name	General Research Fund		
Policy #	I.09	Category	Research
Approving Jurisdiction	Board of Governors	Replaces	2018-07-01
Administrative Responsibility	Research Division	Version	2024-09-25
		Next Review Date	TBD

See the related PROCEDURES (Link to be added when posted.)

I.09.1 – General Research Fund Procedures

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish and administer General Research Funds in accordance with the policies and guidelines of the federal Tri-Agencies.

SCOPE AND LIMITS

This policy applies to:

1. All Aurora College staff, students, and affiliates who engage in research; and
2. The General Research Fund that Aurora College uses to administer unspent funds from expired or terminated grants from the federal Tri-Agencies.

POLICY STATEMENT

Aurora College will establish and administer General Research Funds in accordance with the policies and guidelines of the federal Tri-Agencies.

Guiding Principles

1. Research is a critical function of post-secondary institutions that leads to discovery and innovation. Aurora College recognizes the necessity and importance of maintaining the highest possible standards in the administration and financial management of all research activities.
2. Aurora College recognizes the importance of research, the new knowledge and applications that it creates, and the knowledgeable and skilled human resources that are developed through the process of conducting research.

3. Tri-Agency funds are public funds provided to promote and assist research.
4. Aurora College has a responsibility to:
 - a. use Tri-Agency funds as effectively as possible,
 - b. be accountable for the use, allocation, and outcomes of Tri-Agency funds, and
 - c. ensure that the activities that are supported are conducted in accordance with the highest ethical and financial standards.
5. Reinvesting unspent funds from previous years enables Aurora College to develop and diversify its research capacity and to enhance the quality of its research and training.

DEFINITIONS

General Research Fund: A General Research Fund (GRF) is a special account opened as a trust account under the authority of the President of Aurora College (or their designee) into which the unspent funds of expired or terminated Tri-Agency grants are transferred with the authorization of the granting agency.

Research: An undertaking intended to extend or create knowledge through a disciplined inquiry or systematic investigation.

Note: Studies carried out to assess, manage, improve, or develop programs or services for Aurora College are not considered research; non-research includes quality assurance and improvement studies, program evaluation studies, usability studies, and organizational effectiveness studies.

Researcher: Any person associated with the College who does research as part of their employment or studies with Aurora College, as well as persons from the community who are associated with a College-generated research project. A researcher is responsible for conducting research following all relevant guidelines that are required of them by their principal investigator and institution, as well as any legal, regulatory, or ethical authorities.

Tri-Agency: Tri-Agency refers to the three Canadian federal research funding agencies: the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). The Tri-Agencies are also referred to as the Tri-Councils.

RELATED POLICIES/PROCEDURES/DOCUMENTS

Related Procedures:

- A.02 Aurora College Code of Ethics
- I.02 Research Administration Policy
- I.03 Integrity in Research and Scholarship Policy

Related Procedures:

I.09.1 General Research Fund Procedure

Related Documents:

Tri-Agency Guide on Financial Administration:

[Tri-Agency Guide on Financial Administration](#)

Government of Canada - *Guidelines for the General Research Fund:*

[Guidelines for the General Research Fund \(NSERC and SSHRC only\) - Science.gc.ca](#)

Government of the Northwest Territories - *Financial Administration Manual*

APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

Financial Administration Act S.N.W.T. 2015, c.13

<https://www.justice.gov.nt.ca/en/files/legislation/financial-administration/financial-administration.a.pdf>

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date	Update
2020-04-14	New policy issued. Approved by Administrator, Aurora College Ref.#Admin-05-2020. Implemented April 14, 2020.
2024-09-25	Policy revised. Governance Committee Motion #GC05-2024. Board of Governors Motion BG09-Sept-2024 Implemented September 25, 2024.