

OLIN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Principal Investigator Eligibility

The title of Principal Investigator (PI) identifies the individual responsible for the conduct of a sponsored project. This responsibility includes the intellectual conduct of the project, fiscal accountability, administrative aspects, and the adherence to relevant policies and regulations. Under the terms and conditions of the award, a PI accepts sponsored funding on behalf of Olin College. For that reason, PIs must have a reasonable prospect of employment at the College at least through the end of the planned grant activities.

Definitions

Principal Investigator (PI) means the individual with primary responsibility for and in charge of a sponsored project. PIs may also be referred to as Project Directors or other titles by the external sponsors. Regardless of the term used by the sponsor, this policy will apply to all individuals in the role of PI.

Individuals may choose to share the responsibilities described herein as Co-Principal Investigators (Co-PIs). Co-PIs must meet the same eligibility requirements as PIs.

Eligibility

Eligible. Eligibility to serve as a PI is limited to those with the technical competence and adequate time available to assume responsibility for successfully overseeing and accomplishing all aspects of a sponsored project.

Provided they meet the sponsor's criteria, the following individuals at Olin College are eligible to serve as PIs on externally sponsored projects:

- Assistant professors
- Associate professors
- Professors

Other faculty and staff employees, such as Instructors, Academic Visitors, and Directors, may serve as PI with the approval of their supervisor and division leader. Plans will be reviewed to determine that the prospective PI will be able to fully carry out their usual job responsibilities in addition to the new project, and that they will have the adequate time, resources, expertise, and length of appointment to conduct and oversee all technical and administrative aspects of the new project.

Ineligible. Student and postdoctoral researchers are typically not eligible to serve as PI. Exceptions may be granted for postdoctoral fellowship applications with a designated Olin College faculty mentor/sponsor. If an undergraduate student wishes to submit a grant application, they must partner with a faculty member who agrees to serve as PI. In these cases, the faculty member will be responsible for project supervision, completion, and reporting.

Please contact OSP.Awards@olin.edu with any questions and visit [our website](#) for more information on grant seeking at Olin.