

Memorandum

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From: Roberto M. Gutierrez
Assistant Vice President for Research
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Subj.: Changes to the NIH Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) Program (R15) Eligibility

Date: December 26, 2018

Please be advised that NIH has announced significant changes to the R15 Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) program that are of critical importance to faculty in FIU's Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences and Robert Stempel College of Public Health & Social Work. As of January 2019 no unit at FIU is an eligible applicant for the R15 program.

The original intent of the AREA grant program was to ensure that undergraduate students enrolled at institutions with minimal NIH funding had opportunities to gain exposure to biomedical research. The R15 activity code was recently revised by the NIH to restrict eligibility to undergraduate-focused institutions that do not receive substantial amounts of funding from NIH. "Substantial" funding is defined by the NIH as receiving research 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. FIU has consistently exceeded this amount for the last decade. More information about the changes to the AREA grant program may be found at: <https://nexus.od.nih.gov/all/2018/12/03/changes-to-the-r15-academic-research-enhancement-award-area-and-introducing-the-r15-research-enhancement-award-program-reap/>

If you have any questions about this change by the NIH, please feel free to contact me at 305-348-8312 or via email at gutierr@fiu.edu.