

Northwestern University Conflict of Interest Policy Definitions

Text Reference	Definition
<i>Conflict of Commitment</i>	A situation where an individual engages in outside activities, either paid or unpaid, that interferes with his or her primary obligation and commitment to the University.
<i>Conflict of Interest</i>	A situation in which an individual's financial, professional or other personal considerations may directly or indirectly affect, or have the appearance of affecting, his or her professional judgment in exercising any University duty or responsibility.
<i>Faculty</i>	For purposes of this Policy, "Faculty" means any person possessing either a full- or part-time academic appointment in Northwestern University, including faculty-level research appointees, faculty librarians, and contributed service faculty, but normally excluding adjunct faculty <sup>1</sup> .
<i>Financial Interest</i>	A Financial Interest, as described in Section 4(A) of the Policy, is an interest in a business or the receipt or right to receive certain types of remuneration over stated thresholds.
<i>Investigator</i>	The project director or principal investigator and any other person, regardless of title or position, who is <b><i>responsible for the design, conduct, or reporting</i></b> of research funded by the NIH, or proposed for such funding, which may include, for example, collaborators or consultants.
<i>Immediate Family Member</i>	The immediate family of a Faculty member or Staff member includes his/her spouse, dependent children, domestic or civil union partner, and others as defined in the Faculty Handbook and Staff Handbook.
<i>Outside Professional Activities</i>	An outside activity is any paid or volunteer activity undertaken by a Staff or Faculty member outside the scope of his or her regular University duties. Outside Professional Activities may include consulting, participation in civic or charitable organizations, working as a technical or professional advisor or practitioner, or holding a part-time job with another employer,

<sup>1</sup> Adjunct Faculty meeting the definition of Investigator as set forth in the Northwestern University Policy on Conflict of Interest in Research (for example, Adjunct Faculty serving as principal investigator or key personnel on a grant) are subject to the disclosure requirements set forth in the University's Policy on Conflict of Interest in Research.

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<i>Staff</i>	whether working in one's University occupation or another.  For purposes of this Policy, Staff means any regular, non-exempt and exempt staff in research, academic or administrative positions, including postdoctoral fellows, research associates, coaches, non-faculty physicians and non-faculty veterinarians.
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