

Office for Sponsored Research and Award Administration
Off-Campus F&A Rate
FY 25 Rate Agreement
FAQs

OSU's FY25 F&A Rate agreement eliminates split budgets for Off-Campus and On-Campus components of a project. Like all other F&A rate categories, the preponderance of the project will determine the single F&A rate for the project.

The FY25 F&A Rate Implementation Memo states that the new Off-Campus definition will be used starting July 1, 2026. This allows proposals under consideration by sponsors when the FY25 Rate Agreement was released to proceed using the definitions of our previous F&A Rate agreement if the award is received by June 30, 2026. Starting July 1, 2026, all awards accepted by OSU will need to include budgets using the Off-Campus definition described in this FAQ.

These Off-Campus F&A Rate FAQs were developed to assist budget development in the context of a typical federally funded research project. Every project will be evaluated based on its unique circumstances as part of OSRAA's proposal review.

ON-CAMPUS

“The On-Campus rate is applicable to projects or activities that take place in facilities owned or leased by OSU.”¹

1.Q: When should the On-Campus F&A rate be used?

A: On-Campus F&A rates should be used for all sponsored projects performed in any building owned or leased by OSU.

2.Q: What are examples of an OSU owned or leased facility?

A: On-Campus facilities include campus facilities such as Corvallis Campus, Hatfield Marine Science Center (HMSC), Cascades Campus, and OSU Portland Center. On-Campus facilities also include some branch Agriculture Experiment Stations, OSU farms and other OSU research facilities.

3.Q What if my project has On-campus and Off-Campus components?

A: The preponderance test is used to determine where the majority of the activity is being performed, the single F&A rate is applied to the entire project based on this test. The FY25 Rate Agreement states: “Grants or contracts will not be subject to more than one F&A cost rate. If more than 50% of a project is performed off-campus, the off-campus rate will apply to the entire project.”

OFF-CAMPUS

“The Off-Campus rate will apply for all activities: a) Performed in facilities not owned or leased by the institution; or b) Where rent is directly allocated/charged to the project(s). Grants or contracts will not be subject to more than one F&A cost rate. If more than 50% of a project is performed off-campus, the off-campus rate will apply to the entire project.”¹

4.Q: When should the Off-Campus F&A rate be used?

A: The Off-Campus F&A rate should be used for an entire project if the preponderance of the project takes place in an Off-Campus location, subject to the qualifications below. Note that convenience,

Office for Sponsored Research and Award Administration
Off-Campus F&A Rate
FY 25 Rate Agreement
FAQs

telecommuting, working from home, conferences, and summer travel are not justifications for the Off-Campus determination.

5.Q: My research is at OSU-Cascades. Does that mean I can use the Off-Campus F&A rate?

A: OSU-Cascades campus in Bend is an On-Campus facility.

6.Q: I am a faculty member at OSU-Cascades but my research is at a rented facility. Can I use the Off-Campus F&A rate?

A: Sponsored projects at OSU-Cascades frequently rent space for their projects. If sponsored project activities will occur in the rented space, and the rent is a direct charge to the project, follow the “project paying for rent” guidance below.

7.Q: When does an entire project qualify for the Off-Campus F&A rate?

A: An entire project will qualify for the Off-Campus F&A rate if the preponderance of the project is performed in facilities that are not owned or leased by OSU.

8.Q: What direct costs cannot use the Off-Campus F&A rate?

A: There are no direct cost categories that cannot use the Off-Campus rate, if the preponderance of the project occurs in an Off-Campus location, then the Off-Campus rate will be used for all direct cost categories.

9.Q: What if my project is paying the rent/lease cost as a direct charge to the grant?

A: If the **project is paying for rent/lease** as a direct charge to the project and all project activities are occurring in the rented space, then this is an Off-Campus project and the Off-Campus F&A rate applies to all project activities.

- If leased space is used for multiple projects, the cost of the lease should be allocated to those multiple sponsored projects proportionally.
- Lease expenses on a sponsored project are exempt from F&A as per the MTDC definition.²

10.Q: What if my project is not paying the rental costs for the Off-Campus location?

A: A sponsored project can still qualify for Off-Campus F&A rates (even if the project is not paying for the lease/rental costs) if the project is occurring at a facility that is not OSU owned or leased. This is typical for projects that take place in federal facilities, county offices, or at field sites. Examples include the following:

- US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Building (Corvallis)
- USFS Corvallis Forestry Sciences Laboratory (FSL)
- Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center (Portland)
- NOAA Building (Newport)
- Extension offices located in non-OSU owned or leased facilities; i.e., county office buildings

11.Q: I have heard that the project activity must be more than 90 days in the Off-Campus location but my project is less than 90 days?

A: The 90-day threshold was used under OSU’s previous F&A rate agreement and is no longer relevant to F&A determinations.

Office for Sponsored Research and Award Administration
Off-Campus F&A Rate
FY 25 Rate Agreement
FAQs

12.Q: What if the project is staffed by Remote Employees:

A: The Off-Campus location must be required for the needs of the project. OSU employees who are in a location specifically for the purposes of supporting that project would be considered Off-Campus for preponderance test purposes. Note that remote working for convenience, telecommuting, working from home, conferences, and summer travel are not justifications for the Off-Campus determination.

ON-CAMPUS AND OFF-CAMPUS

13.Q: Why are the On-Campus and Off-Campus F&A rates different?

A: Oregon State University's On-Campus indirect cost rate (F&A rate) is comprised of a Facilities component and an Administrative component.³ The Off-Campus F&A rate consists of only the Administrative component. The Facilities component is excluded from the Off-Campus F&A rate due to the project not using OSU facilities. Incidental use of OSU facilities by project personnel during the project period does not prohibit an Off-Campus F&A rate determination for a sponsored project.

14.Q: I know that my project has an On-Campus component but there is a significant portion that is occurring Off-Campus. Can both F&A rates apply?

A: No, Oregon State University's FY26-FY29 F&A rate agreement no longer allows for split budgets that contain both On-Campus and Off-Campus components. The F&A Rate agreement states that "Grants or contracts will not be subject to more than one F&A cost rate. If more than 50% of a project is performed off-campus, the off-campus rate will apply to the entire project.":

15.Q: What do we look at to determine for the preponderance test for off-campus/on-campus determination:

A; Off-Campus determination is based on OSU project activity. We typically do not look at external costs like the cost of travel, cost of equipment, and the location of the work of subawardees or consultants. Proposal budgets come with many variations, but typically the determining factor is the location of activity for OSU personnel (location of at least 51% of salary).

¹ FY25 F&A Rate Implementation Memo dated 3/10/2026