

GPAF Definitions of Terms

When completing the Grant Proposal Approval Form (GPAF) please refer to the following definitions of terms. These categories are not all-inclusive. If your project does not fit one of the categories, select the category that is most representative of the work.

Intellectual Credit

Intellectual credit refers to the percentage of credit each Valpo researcher should receive. The percentage should total 100% for the group and is determined by the investigators themselves. For example, if Professor A developed most of the project or came up with the concept and Professor B assisted in the development, it would be reasonable for Professor A to have 70% of the credit with Professor B receiving 30% of the credit.

Primary Purpose

Research means all research and development activities including the planning and conduct of research and research training.

Instruction means teaching and training, including curriculum development/revision. This term applies whether the course is offered for credit or not is in-person or online and regardless of the department or program providing the instruction.

Public service means programs and projects that involve work other than research or instruction that benefit the campus or broader community. Examples include health service projects, service programs, and community outreach.

Research Type

Basic research is a systematic study directed toward fuller knowledge or understanding of the fundamental aspects of phenomena and observable facts without specific applications toward processes or products.

Applied research is a systematic study to gain the knowledge or understanding necessary to determine the means by which a recognized and specific need may be met.

Development is a systematic application of knowledge or understanding directed toward the production of useful materials, devices, and systems or methods, including design, development, and improvement of prototypes and new processes to meet specific requirements.

Funding Instrument

Grants are submitted by the University on behalf of the Principal Investigator/Project Director and are made for a stated purpose and period of time using an agreed-upon budget. Typically, the funder is not substantively involved with the project during the grant period, and progress and financial reports are required per the funder's schedule.

A **contract's** primary purpose is to acquire property or services for the direct benefit or use of the funder and usually includes specific and detailed terms and conditions. Activities are frequently dictated by the funder and there is little leeway for modifications to the project scope or budget.

A **cooperative agreement's** primary purpose is to transfer funds to a recipient to achieve a public good. Compared to a grant, a cooperative agreement entails more involvement from the funder during the period of the agreement. The funder determines if this instrument is appropriate for the project.