

## Splitting F&A Costs Across Schools and Colleges

***Definition:** F&A costs (Facilities & Administration costs, also called indirect costs or overhead) are applied to projects to cover the university's costs that are necessary to support research and other sponsored activities but can't be calculated directly for each project. Examples are costs of departmental and central administration, utilities, space usage, etc. USM negotiates an F&A rate with the federal government.*

*Typically, F&A is distributed 40% to the general fund, 40% to the Vice President for Research, and 10% each to the school and college conducting the project.*

Research and other projects that cross school and college lines can be highly competitive and sponsors frequently encourage a multidisciplinary approach. One potential difficulty though is determining how F&A should be split here at USM should the project be funded.

When multiple schools or multiple colleges are involved, it is up to the Principal Investigator (PI) and co-

PI and co-PI and calculate a split based on overall dollar  
establish separate project IDs to track each budget, or

to at the proposal stage and documented when the