

Ag Affairs Principal Investigator /Project Director Role Policy

A principal investigator (PI) or project director (PD) is the primary person that the North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station (NDAES), NDSU Extension (NDSU EXT), and the College of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Natural Resources (CAFSNR) designates as having an appropriate level of authority and responsibilities for leading and directing the proposed work of a grant or project through its successful completion.

The level of authority and responsibilities of PI/PD include:

- the lead in writing/design of the grant (includes proposed objectives and methodology of the project),
- the lead in budgetary/financial oversight,
- the lead in implementation of the grant (includes all research aspects of experimental design, implementation, and data collection; instruction or development of programs; access to facilities and equipment for successful implementation)
- the lead in reporting for the grant (include project findings, agency reporting, dissemination of grant accomplishments).

The level of authority and responsibilities of co-PI/co-PD include:

- A co-PI/co-PD can be a co-leader and have shared responsibility for all items listed above for PI/PD, or
- A co-PI/co-PD can also serve as a co-investigator and contribute substantially to at least one of the categories listed above.

NDSU Job Classification	Can serve as lead PI without requiring an exception.	Can serve as Co-PI without requiring an exception.
1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenured/tenure track faculty member, non-tenure track research professor (assistant, associate, full), professor of practice (assistant, associate, full) • Any employee with an approved Experiment Station project (Hatch/multistate or state) • Director of a service unit or an agency (e.g. VDL, NCI, REC) • Extension specialist or Extension agent • Extension Program Coordinators 	Yes	Yes
2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main Station Research specialists 	No	Yes ^a
3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REC Research specialists • VDL Section Heads and Experiment Station Specialist 	No - unless with approval from REC/VDL Director ^b	Yes ^a
4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postdoctoral fellows and main-station non-faculty research scientist^c 	No	Yes ^{a,d}
5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undergraduate/graduate students^c 	No	Yes – only for PhD students ^{a,d}
6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visiting and adjunct faculty 	No	Yes ^a

^a - Personnel considered for co-PI/co-PD must have her/his supervisor/mentor from classification #1 serve as PI/PD on all proposals.

^b - The REC/VDL director has discretion to determine whether individuals in category 3 have the appropriate level of authority and responsibility to serve as an independent PI, in which case the category 3 personnel must have the expectation to conduct independent work included in his/her job description. Before any grants are submit as PI, the REC/VDL directors must nominate the category 3 individual to serve as PIs and include his/her position description with the nomination to the office of the Director of the ND AES.

^c - Request for proposals that are specifically directed towards post-doctoral and/or student opportunities are allowed without special permission.

^d - Postdoctoral fellows/research scientist and PhD students funded with grant dollars are required to budget salary in each submitted grant proposal relative to their efforts.