

Annual Space Survey

Fiscal Year 2025

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Background – Why is a Space Survey Important?

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The facilities component of UAB's F&A rate is allocated based on the results of the survey (i.e. square footage statistics).



The facilities component is the only uncapped portion of the F&A rate (i.e. the only area where UAB has the potential to increase its reimbursement of costs associated with conducting research).



For buildings with more than one function, Federal regulations require the allocation of facilities costs based upon functional use of space.



Federal regulations require the allocations to be “appropriately documented in sufficient detail for subsequent review by the cognizant federal agency.”

Background – Why is a Space Survey Important?

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Facilities related costs represent a major component of the Organized Research rate

Space Survey Function is the statistic that allocates the facility related costs

Critical component of the rate proposal

Background – What are the Space Survey Objectives?

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Specific Goals:

- Identify all activities performed in each room for reasonable cost allocations
- Develop proposal statistics that are defensible during rate negotiations with the federal government
- Use methodologies that comply with government requirements and that provide the best cost recoveries
 - The functional space survey is subject to review/audit by the federal cognizant agency (HHS)

Background – What Impact Will You Have?

1. The quality of your response determines the accuracy and defensibility of the allocation of costs in the F&A Rate Proposal
2. The allocation of costs determines the final F&A Rate computed and submitted to the Federal Government for negotiation
3. The accuracy and defensibility of the F&A Rate Proposal submission determines the ultimate success of UAB in maintaining and/or enhancing its current F&A rate
4. The final F&A rate negotiated determines the amount of money recovered by UAB to support the current and future resource requirements of the research enterprise
5. IN SHORT, YOUR EFFORT WILL IMPACT THE FINANCIAL RESOURCES OF THE UNIVERSITY!

Background – What Impact Will You Have?

Why conduct a Space Inventory and Functional Usage Study?

- ✓ F&A Cost Reimbursement
- ✓ Uniform Guidance
 - Must identify research space in specific percentage terms. Cannot use predominant use

Background – F&A Proposal Structure

F& A Costs

Indirect costs incurred to support
Research activities:

- Depreciation of Research Buildings
& Equipment
- Operation & Maintenance of
Research Areas
- Construction Interest of Research Areas
- Administrative Services

\$49,000,000

Direct Costs

Costs incurred in performing
Research activities:

- Salaries and Fringe Benefits of Lab Personnel
- Research Supplies and Materials
- Travel
- Consultant Services


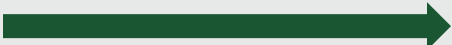
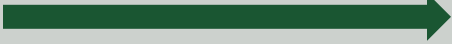
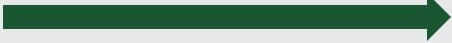
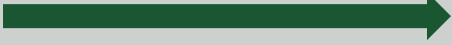
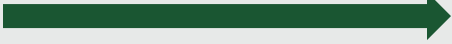



\$100,000,000



$$\frac{\text{F\&A Costs}}{\text{Direct Costs}}$$

F & A Cost Rate = 49%

Background – F&A Cost Pools

Pools		Allocation Statistics
Facilities: Building Depreciation		Square Footage
Facilities: Equipment Depreciation		Square Footage
Facilities: Operation & Maintenance		Square Footage
Facilities: Interest Expense		Square Footage
Facilities: Library		Student, staff, faculty FTE
Administration: General Administration		MTDC
Administration: Department Administration		MTDC
Administration: Sponsored Projects Admin		MTDC
Administration: Student Admin & Services		Allocated to Instruction

Space Survey Procedures

How Do I Complete the Space Survey?

1. **FMS: Workplace** – a web-based survey manager application for completing the space survey
2. **Validate room demographic information**
3. **Document the functional usage (activity) taking place in the room**
4. **List accounts (source of funding) for the activity in rooms with sponsored activity.**
5. **List all room occupants performing activity in rooms with sponsored activity**

Space Survey Procedures

Critical Success Factors

- Firsthand knowledge of how the space was used during fiscal year **2025** (10/01/2024 – 09/30/2025)
- An understanding of the activities performed in the room
- Information on funding sources related to the activities for the space (grants, contracts, departmental funds, etc.)
- Knowledge of the space and occupants of the space – may need to contact/meet PIs to gather necessary information

Space Survey Procedures

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Validating Room Demographic Information

- Review room list for accuracy and completeness
 - Rooms used by department during FY 2025 missing from list
 - Rooms on list not used by department during FY 2025
 - Rooms that have physically changed
 - Identify Faculty Offices through change of use
- Identify Principal Investigators
- Confirm that room type is accurate



Space Survey Procedures

Documenting Rooms Where Sponsored Activity Is Taking Place – **IDENTIFY PERSONNEL**

- List **ALL** personnel who occupied each room on a regular basis during Fiscal Year 2025 (e.g. Faculty, Research Staff, Post Docs, Technicians, Graduate Students, Undergraduate Students, Visiting Scientists)
- List any unpaid occupants in the “Notes” section on the Confirmation tab.

Space Survey Procedures

Documenting Rooms Where Sponsored Activity is Taking Place – IDENTIFY SPONSORED AWARDS

1. Identify the grant award numbers of the projects performed in each room during Fiscal Year 2025

Determine Functional Usage

1. Space should be functionalized based on the activities performed in the area
2. When space is occupied by multiple individuals the frequency and intensity of their presence should be considered in determining the percentage of functional activity

Functional Definitions

Joint Use (JT)

- This category includes space used for conference rooms and other multi-function rooms, such as copy rooms, employee lounges, and departmental libraries. Offices and office service areas should also be coded to Joint Use.
- Departments **are not required** to identify occupants or accounts for Joint Use spaces unless directed by their own department to do so, however, occupants are frequently requested for departmental use.
- If there are any of the following activities occurring in joint use spaces, please note the activity and the percentage in the comments section: Service Center, Patient Care, Vacant or Under Renovation.

Listing of Joint Use (J-JT) Room Types:

Communications Room	Office Kitchen
Communications Room Service	Office Service
Conference Room/Conf Rm Svc	Other Special Uses
Clinical Research Office	Processing Room
Data Processing/Computer	Reading Study Room
Data Processing/Computer Service	Reading/Study Room Service
Demonstration	Receiving
Demonstration Service	Seminar Room
Independent Study Lab/Ind Stdy Svc	Seminar Service
Hoteling Office	Shop
Lounge	Shop Service
Lounge Service	Study Service
Meeting Room	Unit Storage / Lab Storage
Meeting Room Service	Waste Storage
Office / Faculty Office	Waste Storage Service

Functional Definitions



Organized/Sponsored Research (OR)



This category includes all research and development activities of the University that are separately budgeted and accounted for on a specific project basis, and research cost sharing. Organized research activities include:



Sponsored Research Projects: Research projects sponsored by Federal agencies and non-Federal organizations (e.g. states, cities, foundations, corporations, etc.) through grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements



Clinical Trials/Drug Studies: Generally, “Phases 1 and 2” and activities involving drug development and sponsored by Federal agencies and non-Federal organizations (e.g. states, cities, foundations, pharmaceutical companies, etc.)

Functional Definitions



Organized/Sponsored Research (OR) continued...



Sponsored Research Training: The training of individuals in research techniques sponsored by Federal agencies and non-Federal organizations through grants, contracts and cooperative agreements. Common examples include Career Development (“K”) awards, institutional training grants (T-32), individual fellowships (F-32), etc.



University Research Projects: Research projects funded with University funds that are separately budgeted and accounted for on a specific project basis



Research Cost Sharing: Cost sharing related to organized research projects

Functional Definitions



Instruction/Departmental Research (INST)



This category includes all non-sponsored teaching and training activities



Teaching and Training: All regular University teaching and training activities, whether they are offered for credits toward a degree or certificate or on a non-credit basis. Includes classroom teaching, preparing instructional materials, preparing and grading examinations, etc.



Departmental Research: Research, development and scholarly activities that are not separately budgeted and accounted for on an individual project basis. It is research conducted by an individual that is not associated with any particular sponsored research project. It is supported by departmental funds, gift accounts and start-up funds that the University has discretion on how the funding can be utilized

Functional Definitions



Sponsored Instruction / Training (SI)



Instructional or training activities sponsored by Federal agencies and non-Federal organizations through grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements. This category does not include Research Training activities.

Functional Definitions



Other Sponsored Activities (OSA)



Other sponsored activities are programs and projects financed by Federal and non-Federal agencies and organizations that involve the performance of work other than instruction and organized research. Examples are health service projects, public service projects, public service conferences, and “Phases 3 and 4” clinical trials involving the patient testing of drugs.

Functional Definitions



University Hospital Patient Care – (PHSP)

This category includes the direct and supportive health care activities (prevention, diagnosis, treatment, counseling, rehabilitation, etc.) conducted **under the control and authority of the University of Alabama Hospital** (not including Health Services Foundation activities, Children's Hospital, Callahan EFH or Veteran's Administration Medical Center Activities). These activities result in individuals being seen, treated, or counseled or having their cases discussed with other practitioners for the purpose of health care or diagnosis and not as subjects of research projects. Supportive activities include patient scheduling, patient records, patient correspondence, patient billing, and other related activities.

Functional Definitions



Health Services Foundation – (PHSF)



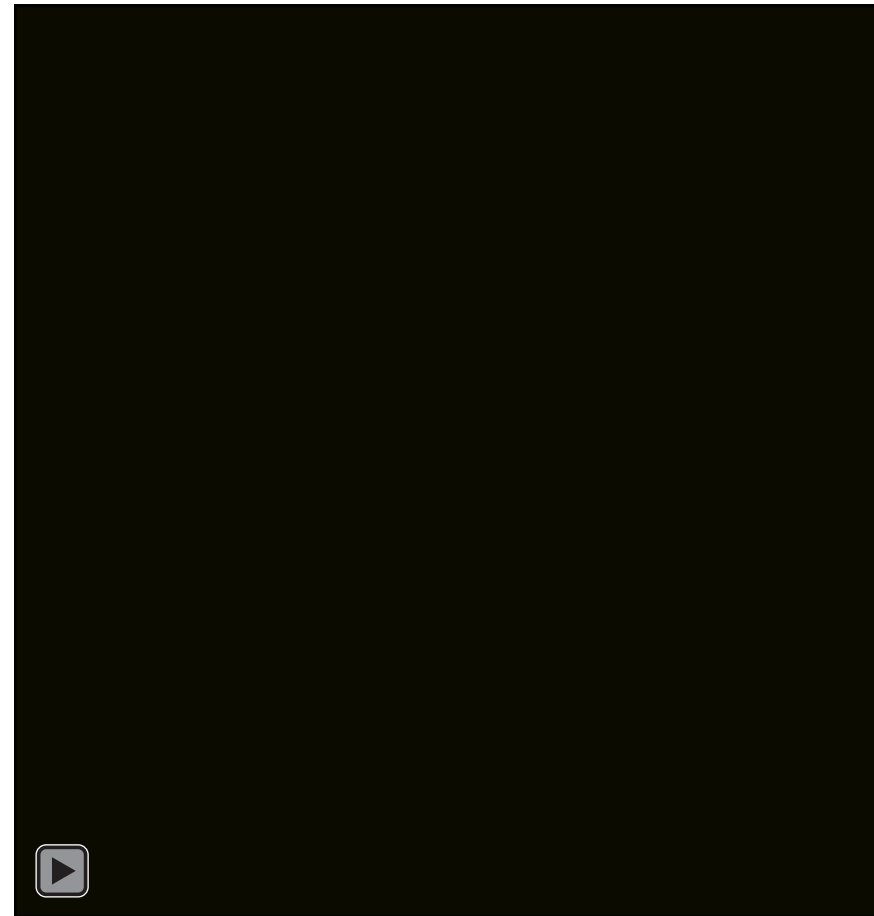
Included here are billable health care activities conducted under the control and authority of the Health Services Foundation. Activities include both direct patient contact and supportive activities such as patient scheduling, patient records, patient correspondence, patient billing and other related activities conducted in all UAB and/or UAB leased buildings

Functional Definitions

Patient Services

Included here are billable health care activities conducted under the control and authority of affiliated units/organizations other than University Hospital and the Health Services Foundation. Activities include both direct patient contact and supportive activities such as patient scheduling, patient records, patient correspondence, patient billing and other related activities

- Callahan Eye Foundation Hospital (PEFH)
- Children's Hospital (PCH)
- Dentistry – Private Faculty Practice (PDFP)
- Optometry – Private Faculty Practice (PUOG)
- Sparks/CDLD Clinics (PSPC)
- Speech and Hearing Clinic (PSHC)
- Veteran's Administration Medical Center (PVA)
- University Ophthalmology Service Foundation (POSF)
- Huntsville Valley Foundation (PVAL)



Functional Definitions



Patient Care – UAB Hospital (PPAT)



This category includes those activities involved with the delivery of patient care (e.g., University Medical Center and clinics)



The space associated with residents in the Heersink School of Medicine should be coded as PPAT

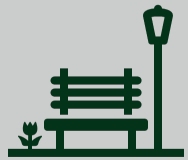


Also includes the space devoted to the CCTS including all administrative and support areas

Functional Definitions



Operations and Maintenance (O&M)



Includes services related to the administration, supervision, operation, maintenance, preservation, and protection of campus facilities. Services include janitorial and custodial services; repairs and ordinary or normal alterations to buildings, equipment, and furniture; design services; security; earthquake and disaster preparedness; environmental health and safety; property and equipment insurance; space and capital leasing; facility planning and management; care of grounds; maintenance and operation of buildings and other physical facilities

Functional Definitions



Departmental Administration (DA)



Includes the administrative activities performed by academic departments to support the primary programs of instruction, research, and public service. This support includes the departmental chair and department-level administrative, secretarial, personnel, payroll, purchasing, and accounting activities

Functional Definitions



Student Administration and Services (SSA)



Includes student-related activities such as counseling and career guidance, student advising, student publications, financial aid, admissions, registrar, student health services, and commencement

Functional Definitions



Sponsored Projects Administration (SPA)



This category is limited to separate organizational units primarily established to administer sponsored projects. This category includes the offices of Grants and Contracts Administration. Space may not be coded as SPA unless a unique budget number is established for the unit administering sponsored projects

Functional Definitions



Library (LIBR)



Includes those related to the operation of the university's libraries. University libraries are Lister Hill and Mervyn Sterne. Does not include department funded libraries, which do not report to the central library system and do not have a "check out" system and librarian

Functional Definitions



General Administration (GA)



Includes institutional activities that provide administrative support for the daily functioning of the total University, such as executive management, fiscal operations (accounting), general administrative services (such as personnel and payroll) and logistical services (such as campus mail and purchasing). Separate organizational units that specifically support sponsored programs should be classified as Sponsored Projects Administration

Functional Definitions

Service Centers (SVCT)

- Includes all space related to organizational units or activities that perform specific technical or administrative services primarily for internal operations and which charge users for these services. The services provided represent the major purpose of the generating department. Examples of service centers include DNA Sequencing, Digital Imaging, Bacterial Assays Lab, Functional Neurology Lab, and the Hormone Metabolisms Lab. This function should only be used if the activity meets the official University Service Center policy

Functional Definitions



Core Facilities (CORE)



Includes all space related to shared research resources that provide access to instruments, technologies, services, as well as expert consultation and other services to scientific and clinical investigators. The typical core facility is a discrete unit within an institution and may have dedicated personnel, equipment, and space for operations. In general, core facilities recover their cost, or a portion of their cost, of providing service in the form of user fees that are charged to an investigator's funds, often to NIH or other federal grants.

Functional Definitions



Other Institutional Activities (OIA)



Other Institutional Activities includes all activities of an institution with the exception of Instruction, Sponsored Research, Other Sponsored Activities, and the Facilities and Administration pools. This definition also includes any other categories of activities, the costs of which are “unallowable” to sponsored agreements, unless otherwise indicated in the agreements

Functional Definitions



Auxiliary Services (AUX)



An entity that exists to furnish goods or services to students, faculty, or staff, and that charges a fee directly related to, although not necessarily equal to, the cost of the goods or services. Some examples of these units at UAB are:

Bookstore
Contract Food Service
Parking
Student Housing

Functional Definitions



Independent Operations



This code represents space utilized to support operations that are independent of the University. The codes are as follows:

- Independent Operations – External (EXTL)
- Independent Operations – Associated (INDP)
- Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI)

Functional Definitions

Unassignable Space

- Includes public common areas or space that is not assigned to an organizational unit and appears in the space inventory for the respective Dean's Office, Office of the Provost, or Office of the Vice President for Financial Affairs and Administration as Unknown. This space is classified according to the following definitions. The appropriate code should be assigned to the space it represents. The codes are:
 - **Unassigned – Building Space (BDSP):** Common areas such as hallways, restrooms, stairwells, elevators, etc.
 - **Unassigned – Shell Unfinished Space (SHLL):** Space that has not yet been finished and is not currently undergoing renovation

Functional Definitions



Vacant Space



Includes only the space that is **vacant for the entire fiscal year**. If space is only vacant for part of the fiscal year, assign functions according to how it was used when occupied

Areas Under Renovation (RNOV)
Idle Areas (VCNT)

Determining Functional Usage

- Identify the activity taking place in the room during **Fiscal Year 2025**
 - If you do not have firsthand knowledge, please contact those who have firsthand knowledge of the room.
- For rooms where sponsored activities are taking place, provide all occupants that perform the activities in each room
- Review the occupant and PI information to confirm that it supports the functional usage percentage
- When space is occupied by multiple individuals, consider the frequency and extent of their presence in determining the percentage of functional activity
- Consult with the PI to confirm accuracy of information for labs

Guidelines for Selected Room Types

Laboratories	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Percentage of functional activity must be supported with grant and occupant information
Lab Service Rooms – Equipment Rooms, Cold Rooms, Microscope Rooms, Dark Rooms, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•If room supports one specific PI, functionalize the same as the PI's lab(s)•If room supports multiple PI's, a floor, or entire department – take into consideration the labs it services before coding.
Service Centers / Support Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Examples include DNA Analysis Facility, Cell Culture Facility•Functionalize as S-SVC•Will eventually be functionalized by Cost Analysis



Guidelines for Selected Room Types



Offices, Faculty
Offices, Office
Service Areas,
Conference Rooms
and Conference
Room Service
Areas

- Confirm room type and organization. These are pre-coded as JT (Joint Use) and will be functionalized based on departmental MTDC by Cost Analysis

Frequently Asked Questions / Helpful Hints

Graduate Students, Post Doctoral Fellows and Unpaid Students

- Frequently occupy space in laboratories where Organized Research is performed
- If the individuals are paid with Organized Research funding or Sponsored Research Training grants, the functional usage should be Organized Research
- If the individuals are paid with institutional funding, the functional usage should be Instruction/Departmental Research
- If the individuals are unpaid, the functional usage should be Instruction/Departmental research

Frequently Asked Questions / Helpful Hints

Undergraduate Students

- Frequently occupy space in laboratories where Organized Research is performed
- May only be present a small portion of the year
- If not on departmental personnel list, please list their names and frequency of presence in “occupancy comments” section
- Functionalize their activities based on the guidelines for Graduate Students, Post Docs and Unpaid Students

Frequently Asked Questions / Helpful Hints

Visiting Scientists

1. Space used by visiting scientists not paid by the UAB should be coded to Other Institutional Activities
2. Why? Because there will be no salaries/wages for these individuals included in the University's organized research F&A rate calculation, their space cannot be coded as Organized Research
3. For individuals with the Oracle HR job title of Visiting Scientist, please code the space using the salary and wages information

Frequently Asked Questions / Helpful Hints

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Volunteers

- Space used by volunteers not paid by the UAB should be coded to Other Institutional Activities
- Why? Because there will be no salaries/wages for these individuals included in the University's organized research F&A rate calculation, their space cannot be coded as Organized Research

Frequently Asked Questions / Helpful Hints

100% Organized Research Rooms

- Federal government negotiators pay particular attention to rooms coded as 100% OR
- A “yes” response to any of the following usually indicates that a room should not be coded 100% OR:
 - Are there any unpaid students or students paid from general institutional funds who use the room?
 - Are there any non-research lab tests performed in the room?
 - Does the room house visiting professors or other non-University employees who are not paid by UAB?

Frequently Asked Questions / Helpful Hints

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Arbitrary Coding of Space

- Federal Government negotiators pay particular attention to rooms which appear to be coded arbitrarily (e.g. 50/50 splits over large groups of rooms)
- Avoid falling into a pattern of assigning rooms arbitrarily without careful consideration of the actual activities and functions being performed

Frequently Asked Questions / Helpful Hints

Room “Clusters”

If a single PI uses multiple labs and his/her research personnel are working on awards among labs, and it's impossible to differentiate their activities between the labs

- It is acceptable to code the labs identically

Frequently Asked Questions / Helpful Hints

Vacant and Inactive Areas

- Includes areas under renovation or vacant rooms that have been idle for the 12 months of FY 2025 (10/1/2024 – 09/30/2025)
- If occupied for any portion of the 12 months, functionalize the room based on the activities performed during the period of use

Frequently Asked Questions / Helpful Hints

The way to “think” through the answers is:

- Who occupies the space? Identify all occupants, paid and unpaid, that have occupied the room during the year
- How are they funded for the work they do in the space?
- Are there any unpaid occupants in the room, e.g. unpaid students or visiting scholars not paid by UAB?
- Relative to one another, how much time is spent by each person in the space? (e.g. PI's and Grad Students may spend less time than Technicians)

Frequently Asked Questions / Helpful Hints

First Instinct is 100% Organized Research but...

- Are some individuals working in the space funded from departmental funds e.g. lab start-up funds or seed money?
- Are other activities taking place in the space that are not part of an organized research project?
- Are there any unpaid occupants in the space?
- Answering “yes” to these questions is perfectly acceptable. It just means that we should not code the space 100% Organized Research

Frequently Asked Questions / Helpful Hints

2025 Space Survey Methodology

- Threshold Method of Space Allocation: An institution choosing this alternate method would establish an Organized Research modified total direct cost (MTDC) dollar threshold to determine which academic departments and/or schools are to be surveyed
- Organized Research MTDC is equal to or exceeds \$500,000
- See Financial Affairs website to determine which group your department falls under

Frequently Asked Questions / Helpful Hints

2025 Space Survey Methodology

- Joint Use: Spaces that fall under this category will be functionalized by Cost Analysis using the departmental MTDC for FY 2025
- Departments will **NOT** need to functionalize Joint Use rooms with the function JT – Joint Use. This information is already populated in the space system
- Joint Use rooms include offices, office services, conference rooms, conference room services, meeting rooms, lounges, kitchens, meeting rooms, meeting room services, other multi-function rooms

2025 Space Survey Methodology

- Function in some rooms and occupants are pre-populated from the 2025 survey in research areas. Surveyors will not need to re-enter all information pertaining to function, occupants or PIs. Surveyors will need to validate the information listed.