

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION	RSCH
POLICY NUMBER	RSCH 1.01
POLICY TITLE	Debarment and Suspension in Federally Sponsored Projects
SCOPE OF POLICY	USC System
DATE OF REVISION	April 27, 2026
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	Vice President for Research
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE	Office of Research

PURPOSE

This policy describes how the university implements and complies with Executive Order 12549 and the subsequent federal agency regulations which established a government wide system for non-procurement debarment and suspension.

DEFINITIONS

Covered Transaction: is any non-procurement transaction between a federal agency and a person, regardless of type, including: grants, cooperative agreements, scholarships, fellowships, contracts of assistance, loans, loan guarantees, subsidies, insurance, payments for specified use, donation agreements and any other non-procurement transactions between a federal agency and a person.

Debarment: is an action taken by a government official in accordance with regulations to exclude a person or entity from participating in covered transactions for a fixed term.

Principal: is defined as persons having critical influence on or substantive control over a covered transaction such as a principal investigator or project director.

Suspension: is disqualification from participating in covered transactions while debarment proceedings are pending.

POLICY STATEMENT

- A. Any individual or entity that has been debarred or suspended is prohibited from receiving or participating in competition for federal funds. In order to comply with this regulation the university must assure that anyone applying for federal funds meets all eligibility requirements regarding debarment status.
- B. The regulation requires that the university make the following certification on all applications for federal funds on behalf of itself and its principals. The university certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief that it and its principals:
 - 1. are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any federal department or agency;

2. have not within a three-year period preceding this proposal been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain or performing a public (federal, state or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of federal or state antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements or receiving stolen property;
3. are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (federal, state or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (2.) of this certification; and
4. have not within a three-year period preceding this application/proposal had one or more public transactions (federal, state or local) terminated for cause or default.

PROCEDURES

The university’s authorized official will sign all applications, proposals and award documents assuring that the university and its principals are in compliance with this regulation. It will be the principal’s responsibility to notify the Office of Sponsored Awards Management (SAM) of any noncompliance and to provide a written explanation to be forwarded to the federal funding agency. Also, it is the principal's responsibility to inform SAM of any changes in his/her status during the application process and ensuing project period. In the absence of any statement and explanation of noncompliance, the university will certify that all principals involved in an application for federal funds are complying with the debarment regulations.

RELATED UNIVERSITY, STATE AND FEDERAL POLICIES

[Executive Order 12549 – Debarment and Suspension](#)

HISTORY OF REVISIONS

DATE OF REVISION	REASON FOR REVISION
February 1, 1995	New Policy
November 8, 2013	Policy organization, content, and accuracy reviewed in October 2013; no substantive revision required.
February 7, 2020	Updated to new format
April 27, 2026	Reviewed by division and revalidated