

Why not just save all of my federal money for summer salary?

Federal Sponsors consider an employee who charges 100% of salary during one summer Month to be 100% committed

- No vacation
- No work on other grant proposals
- No work on unrelated research paper
- No attending unrelated conferences
- No teaching
- No committee work

This makes it nearly impossible for a faculty member to be paid full time on a grant. In order to mitigate this risk the College of Engineering has established the following policy:

“No faculty member should be paid 100% from federal grants in any one month”

When budgeting, first determine how many hours are appropriate towards the scope of work outlined in the grant and then split the effort between academic and summer months.

Mechanical Engineering Salary Savings

Salary Savings occurs when actual salary costs are less than what was planned or budgeted. Faculty appointments are ordinarily made for the nine-month academic year, utilizing general university (state) funds. Departments are to charge faculty time on a variety of sources, such as contracts & grants, throughout the academic year to align effort with pay.

The resulting salary savings can be used either by the faculty or the department chair, depending on the circumstances, for the purpose of conducting university business.

Example of acceptable university business expenses include:

- Purchasing Computers
- Acquiring lab Equipment
- Graduated Student Support
- Travel
- Teaching Buyout
- Summer Salary *Note that summer appointments are allowable only when faculty and students are truly working.

Note: The availability of salary saving funds will expire at fiscal year-end (June 30th) during the fiscal year is was accrued. *Exception for encumbered purchases and summer salaries*

Additional Restrictions:

ISU limits the summer salary compensation under federal funding no more than 2 ½ months.

NSF limits the salary compensation requested in the proposal budget for senior personnel to no more than two months of their regular salary in any one year. This applies to all funded NSF projects per person (not per project).

Examples:

Example 1

On August 1st, Professor A requested to support 1 Month of her fall semester effort with her NSF Research Grant. She plans to use the salary savings for a **teaching buy out**, reducing her fall semester by one course.

- 1 Month of her fall salary is funded from the sponsored project (spread out over 8/15 - 12/31).
- The resulting salary savings is used by the department for the purpose of conducting university business.

Example 2

On December 10th, Professor B requested to support 1 Month of his salary with his DOE Research Grant which expires by the end of April. Professor B wants to utilize the salary savings for **summer salary**.

- 1 Month of his salary is funded from the sponsored project (spread out over 1/1 - 4/30)
- The resulting salary savings are reallocated to summer salary support for Professor B.

Example 3

On June 29th, Professor C requested to support 2 Months of her salary with her DOJ Research Grant. She plans to use the salary savings for **graduate student support**.

- 2 Month of her salary is funded from the sponsored project. (spread out over 8/15 – 8/15)
- The resulting salary savings are reallocated to the RA salary and tuition.

Example 2

On July 30th, Professor D requested to support 1 Month of his salary with his Industry Grant. He plans to use the salary savings for **Supplies, Travel and other laboratory needs**.

- 1 Month of his salary is funded from the sponsored project. (spread out over 8/15 – 8/15)
- The resulting salary savings are reallocated to a 701 account for Professor D to charge expenses to. **The availability of salary saving funds will expire at fiscal year-end (June 30th) during the fiscal year is was accrued.**