

Research Funds Categories (Program Code 20)

The Research Funds (Program Code 20) have basic categories that must be defined and identified when requesting new fund set ups. Below are definitions of the basic categories as defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the National Science Foundation.

As defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board:

Biological sciences are those life sciences that deal with the origin, development, structure, function, and interaction of living things. Examples of biological sciences are as follows: anatomy; animal sciences; bacteriology; biochemistry; biogeography; biophysics; ecology; embryology; entomology; evolutionary biology; genetics; immunology; microbiology; molecular biology; nutrition and metabolism; parasitology; pathology; pharmacology; physical anthropology; physiology; plant sciences; radiobiology; systematics.

Medical sciences are concerned with the causes, effects, prevention, or control of abnormal conditions in man or his environment as they relate to health. Included are the clinical medical sciences, which are concerned with the study of the origins, diagnosis, or treatment of a particular disease in living human subjects under controlled conditions, and other medical sciences. Examples of the medical sciences are as follows: internal medicine; neurology; ophthalmology; preventive medicine and public health; psychiatry; radiology; surgery; veterinary medicine; dentistry; physical medicine and rehabilitation; podiatry.

Education includes research related to any aspect of education. This includes elementary, secondary, and higher education; educational policy; education administration; etc.

Evaluation qualifies as research when it is part of a specific research undertaking. Evaluation conducted separately from a research project is considered research when it involves scientific method and hypothesis testing procedures with fairly rigorous standards. Evaluation activities that do not involve systematic design and testing should not be included.

As defined by the National Science Foundation:

Basic research is defined as systematic study directed toward fuller knowledge or understanding of the fundamental aspects of phenomena and of observable facts without specific applications towards processes or products in mind.

Applied research is defined as systematic study to gain knowledge or understanding necessary to determine the means by which a recognized and specific need may be met.

Development is defined as systematic application of knowledge or understanding, directed toward the production of useful materials, devices, and systems or methods, including design, development, and improvement of prototypes and new processes to meet specific requirements.