

Background and Definitions

The National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics (NCSES) within the National Science Foundation is interested in deriving an annual estimate of R&D capital expenditures in the higher education sector. NCSES is developing a model using data currently collected on the Higher Education Research and Development Survey (HERD) and the Survey of Science and Engineering Research Facilities (Facilities). HERD asks about capitalized equipment and software, but large capital projects are excluded. Those projects are reported on Facilities, but not all capital project costs are captured.

To develop and validate a model, NCSES would like to conduct a one-time collection of R&D capital expenditures from a sample of universities and colleges. Below we present some definitions and questions we are considering including on the survey.

Research and Development

R&D activity is creative and systematic work undertaken in order to increase the stock of knowledge — including knowledge of humankind, culture, and society — and to devise new applications of available knowledge. R&D covers three activities — basic research, applied research, and experimental development.

Capital Expenditures

These expenditures include spending on both R&D facilities and major equipment for R&D as defined in Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-11 Section 84 (Schedule C). Examples include physical assets such as land, structures, equipment, and intellectual property (e.g., software or applications) that have an estimated useful life of two years or more.

Reporting Units

Include expenditures from all units of your institution included in your financial statement. Other campuses headed by their own president, chancellor, or equivalent within your university system should NOT be included. Each campus is asked to respond separately.

3. Which of the following types of costs were included in the expenditures reported in question 1? If they were not included, indicate why.

Type of cost	Included	Not included	
		No assets of this type were purchased	Assets will not be used for R&D
Land acquisition Land acquired for R&D use, including land purchased for building construction.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Buildings and land improvement Buildings constructed or purchased for R&D use.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Major moveable equipment Major (capitalized) machinery and equipment acquired for use in the performance of R&D.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Capitalized software Computer software that is used in the performance of R&D for more than one year. Include long-term licenses and the acquisition of computer software, as well as production costs for internally produced software.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Capital expenditures for intangible assets. Includes patents, long-term licenses, or other intangible assets used in R&D and that are in use for more than two years.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Depreciation

4. What fiscal year was the base year on your last F&A proposal?

Fiscal Year _____

5. On your last F&A proposal, what were the following depreciation rates for on-campus organized research?

a. Building depreciation as percent of direct cost. _____.%

b. Equipment depreciation as percent of direct cost. _____.%

c. Building and equipment depreciation combined as percent of direct cost. _____.%

6. For your FY 2021, what were the following depreciation rates for on-campus organized research?

a. Building depreciation as percent of direct cost. _____.%

b. Equipment depreciation as percent of direct cost. _____.%

c. Building and equipment depreciation combined as percent of direct cost. _____.%