

UC Research Data Policy

Policy Highlights

Scope: The Policy applies to all Research Data generated or collected during the course of University Research.

Summary: The Policy clarifies ownership of and responsibility for Research Data generated during the course of University Research, encourages active data management and sharing practices, and provides guidance with respect to procedures when a University Researcher leaves the University.

Policy Designees: At each campus, the Vice Chancellor for Research or their designee(s), in consultation with campus stakeholders, is responsible for the interpretation, implementation, and oversight of the Policy. See *Policy Section IV.A-C*.

What is Research Data? Information recorded in the course of University Research, embodying facts resulting from a scientific inquiry, regardless of the form or media in which they may be recorded. See *Policy Section II for exclusions and definitions*.

Who owns Research Data? The Regents of the University of California (UC) owns Research Data. Principal Investigators are the primary stewards of Research Data.

Key Dates: The Policy was issued on August 9, 2022, with an effective date of July 15, 2022.

UC Research Administrator's Tool Kit

This reference guide provides Policy highlights and tools to support UC research administrators.

Carefully Identify and Define Research Data

Ensure Research Data is carefully identified and defined in the scope of work/agreement and the definition is consistent with UC obligations and not overly broad. **TIP:** Within the agreement terms, list the components of "data" and describe the nature of information covered by the agreement. Carefully consider how data may be incorporated in any resulting deliverable(s).

Preserve UC's Ownership of Research Data

Maintain UC's academic freedom and preserve the free exchange of ideas by stating in the agreement that UC owns all Research Data generated or collected, including Research Data contained in deliverables. This supports UC's right to publish freely.

Research Data Sharing and Access Rights

UC may grant access and use rights to Research Data so long as UC maintains the right to use such Research Data for its own research and education purposes. Review agreements for any extramural sponsor obligations or third party terms imposing legal requirements on the Research Data, such as data management and sharing requirements. **TIP:** When considering third party access and use rights, consult with UC researchers and the campus licensing office.

Protecting UC

In any agreement in which UC provides Research Data to an external party, consider including terms that would protect UC from liability arising from the use of data and prevent an external party from using UC data to submit a publication in advance of the University researcher or from filing for patent or regulatory filing.

If University Researcher Leaves UC

The University (as owner of the Research Data) decides if Research Data will be transferred or licensed to the new institution in accordance with a locally developed process, subject to applicable legal, funder or contractual requirements. University must maintain the right to sequester or obtain access to Research Data for any required investigation or to ensure continuity of research, regardless of the location.

Resources

- [UC Research Data Policy](#)
- [FAQs about the UC Research Data Policy](#)
- [Why the UC Research Data Policy is Important](#)
- [APM-020: University of California Reg. No.4](#)
- [UC Contract & Grant Manual](#)
- [UC Negotiator's Handbook \(UC Login Required\)](#)

