



What is a conflict of interest?

A conflict of interest exists is anything that interferes with, or could reasonably be perceived as interfering with, the full and objective review of (in this case) the grant proposal. A conflict of interests can be financial or non-financial, professional, or personal.

What would constitute a conflict of interest?

Each of the following describes situations where a reviewer would have a conflict of interest, such as when a reviewer:

- has a direct and predictable financial interest in the outcome, or whose close relatives have such an interest, there is a conflict of interest.
- has a conflict of interest if they or their close relative receives a direct financial benefit of any amount from the proposal.
- has a relationship with the PI or any person with a professional role in the proposal such as a known family relationship (spouse, child, sibling, parent); a business or professional partnership; a thesis advisor or student, or has another relationship, such as a close personal friendship, that might tend to affect the reviewer's judgment or be seen by a reasonable person.
- is named in the proposal in a professional role.
- is from the same institution as the Principal Investigator or a person named in the proposal in a professional role.
- has been a collaborator or had any other professional relationship (e.g., served as a mentor) with any person on the application who has a major role within the past 3 years.
- has been a co-editor on a journal or book with any person on the application who has a major role within the past 2 years.
- Is a member of the advisory board for the project under review.

Is there anything else I should know about conflicts of interest?

For more information on Financial Conflicts of Interest, review the Texas A&M System Regulation 15.01.03 Financial Conflicts of Interest in Sponsored Research, and University Rule 15.01.03.C1. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has also established this website as a further resource on the topic of Financial Conflicts of Interest:

<https://fcoi.tamucc.edu/index.html>