

Research Space Policy

1. All research units with active laboratory research programs are assigned research space on a flexible basis in accordance with the Research Space Policy of the School of Medicine. Research units, for the purposes of this policy and the annual research space analysis, are those specific entities allocated research space by the Dean; research units may be departments, centers, or programs recognized by the School of Medicine, such as the Alcohol Research Center and the Gene Therapy Program.
2. The amount of research space assigned to a research unit “flexes” depending on the overall productivity of the unit and commitments that are made by the school in the context of the recruitment of faculty or the development of new or expanded programs.
3. The Dean controls all space for the School of Medicine. The Dean delegates authority for administration of assigned space to the director of a research program, a department head, center director, or program director. To what extent possible, the development of interdisciplinary programs, center collaborations and shared instrumentation facilities is encouraged by geographical space assignments.
4. The Dean is not involved in the assignment or reassignment of space within a research program unless an irresolvable conflict arises. To minimize such conflict, the Dean encourages all leaders of research programs provided with research space to use the school benchmarks in the assignment of laboratories and other research space to individual investigators.
5. All research involving animals is conducted in the Clinical Science Research Building (CSRB), the Medical Education Building (MEB) and in the LSU Lions Clinic, Research Building (Lions) at 2020 Gravier St, and the Louisiana Cancer Research Consortium Building.
6. The annual research space productivity or density analysis is based on data from the “closed” School of Medicine fiscal year financial ledgers on research expenditures. The space analysis includes MTDC/sq. ft., F&A/sq. ft., and TC/sq. ft., and other statistics including number of active grants and grant submission rates.
7. Expenditures from patient drug studies are excluded from this analysis, as are funds obtained through intramural programs and state consortia agencies or organizations. Aggregate data is collected from the Center on Oral Biology (Dental School Campus).
8. Annual assessment of research space productivity includes all research space; space is categorized in accordance with the federal definitions used in the A-21 reporting methodology.
9. MTDC/sq. ft. and F&A rates associated with specific research awards are the primary institutional indicators of research space density. The School of Medicine benchmark is \$260 MTDC/sq. ft. for research associated with the federal F&A rate (currently 47%) and is \$300/sq. ft. for research associated with lower F&A rates. Those units with values below these performance standards are subject to space reallocation. Rolling 3-year averages are considered in the process of annual review, but with specific large investigator or institutional awards, more agile space adjustments may be required.
10. Other secondary measures of productivity include grant submission rates, percentile scores on grant submissions, research publications, and literature citation data.

11. For the purposes of the annual research space analysis, accountability of research space density is considered to be within a research unit if the research funding is expended within that space assigned to that unit. However, departmental and other reports are generated on an annual basis to track departmental success in attracting extramural funding.
12. For shared instrumentation facilities, accountability of research space density is assigned to the research unit (department, center or program) as common lab space, in accordance with the A-21 guidelines.
13. When a research unit hires a new faculty member who is a funded investigator, research space is assigned to the new faculty member based on the metrics established above. The metric data might indicate a need for additional research space for that research unit and the unit leader will outline the need in writing to the Dean.
14. When a research unit hires a new, unfunded faculty member, and the unit has not saturated its research density, based on the school benchmarks, the unit will accommodate the new faculty member without a request for additional space; if the research density is saturated for that unit, the unit leader will outline the space need in writing to the Dean. The leader of the research unit is accountable for monitoring the success of junior investigators, allowing for a reasonable assessment period before holding the individual to institutional benchmarks for research space density.
15. The Research Space Advisory Committee, appointed by the Dean and composed of active and experienced clinical and basic science investigators, advises the Dean on the assignment (including that needed for hiring of new funded and unfunded investigators) and reallocation of space and oversees the annual assessment of research space productivity at the level of the research unit. All recommendations to the Dean on research space assignments consider the research strategic plans of the research unit, as well as that of the School of Medicine.
16. Each research unit submits a brief annual summary of research accomplishments and plans to the Research Space Advisory Committee and the Dean; this can represent a component of the unit's annual report. The Committee may ask for a personal appearance by the leader of a research unit for advice or additional information in relationship to school standards for research space density.

Definitions (*as the abbreviations appear in the text*):

1. **MTDC**: Modified Total Direct Cost, includes all total costs except capital expenditures, alterations & renovations.
2. **TC**: Total Cost, includes all direct costs, including exclusions for MTDC, and F&A cost recovery.
3. **F&A**: Facilities and Administration Costs (formerly Indirect Costs)
4. **Sq. ft.**: square feet