



TRANSPARENCY CRISIS:

A Black Box of Overhead Spending
& Academia's Mission Creep
from Rigorous Science



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DECEMBER 2025

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US Senator Tom Coburn, MD
Washington, D.C. | March 11, 2014



“I know that restoring transparency is not only the surest way to achieve results, but also to earn back the trust in government...”

US Senator Barack Obama
Washington, D.C. | January 28, 2009





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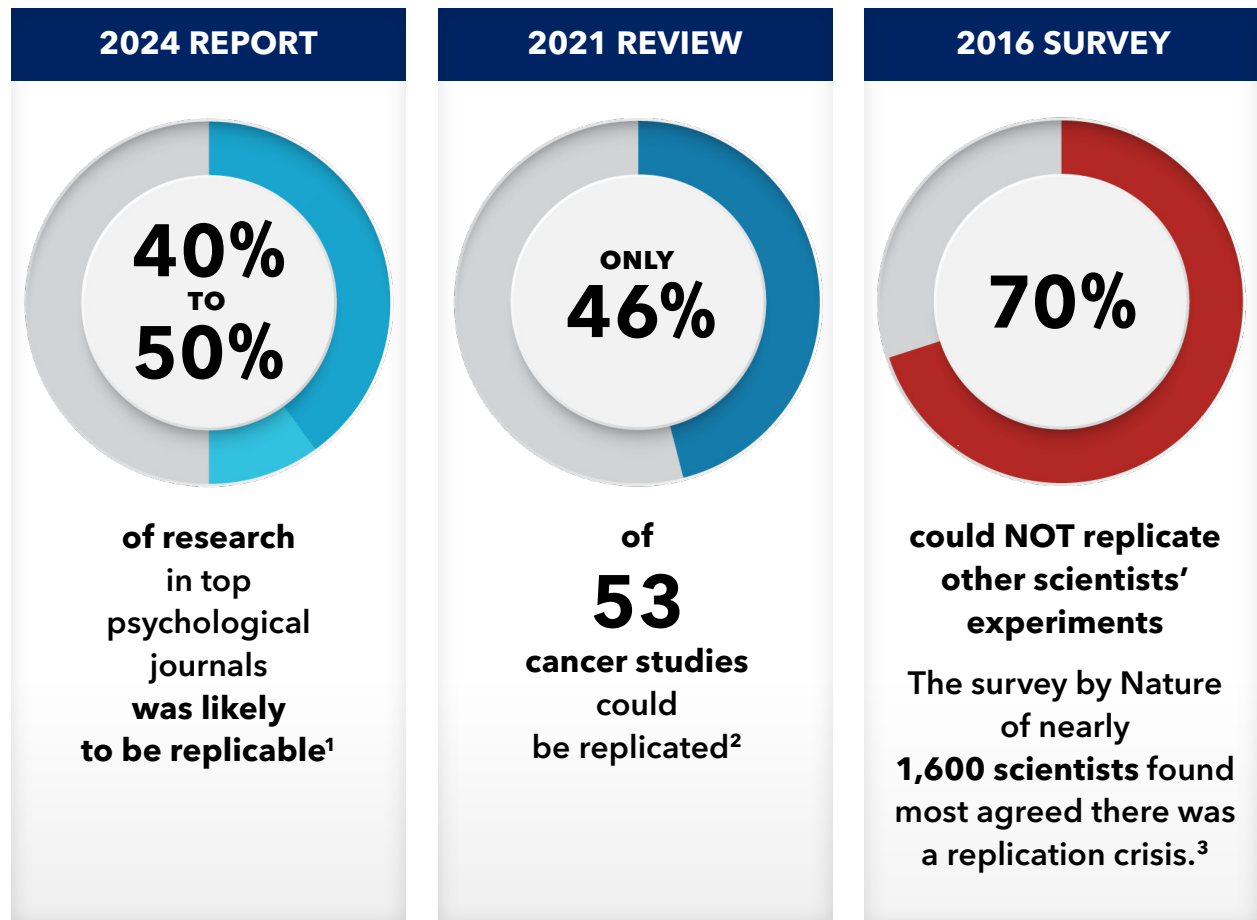
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PROLOGUE

American universities are falling short of their mission to push the limits of scientific discovery and prepare students for the workforce, often while raking in hundreds of millions of dollars a year in federal research and development grants.

Numerous reports have described a crisis in research reproducibility.



1 [ipr.northwestern.edu/news/2024/an-existential-crisis-for-science.html](https://www.ipr.northwestern.edu/news/2024/an-existential-crisis-for-science.html)

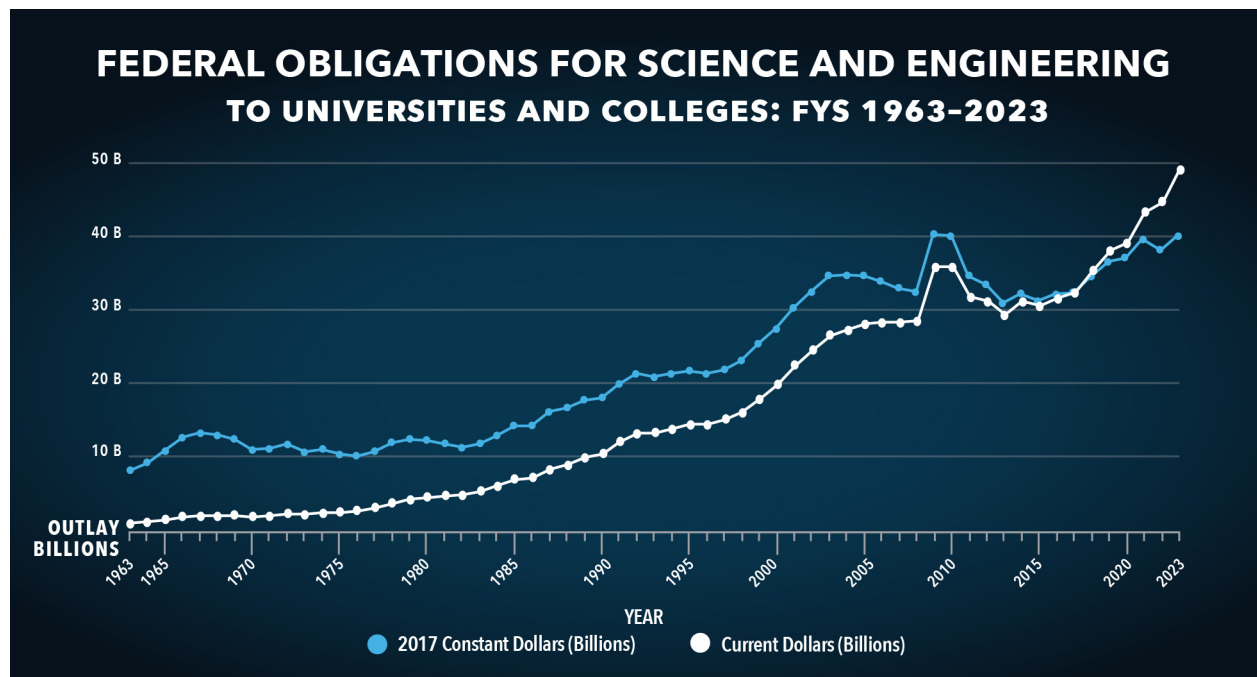
2 elifesciences.org/articles/67995

3 [nature.com/articles/d41586-019-00067-3](https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-00067-3)

UNIVERSITY FUNDS UP

At the same time, recent grads are struggling to gain a foothold in the American economy. A recent report¹ by ed tech company Cengage found a wide “gulf on workplace skills and priorities.” According to the report, employers believe graduates should be equipped with “practical competencies” while educators emphasized soft skills like “critical thinking” and “problem solving.” Such gaps compound issues grads are facing in a constrained economy with fewer employment opportunities.

Despite these concerns, federal funding to universities or scientific research has trended ever upwards since records began in 1963. In FY 2023 funding reached² close to **\$50 billion**.



Federal obligations for science and engineering to universities and colleges: FYs 1963-2023³

¹ cengage.widen.net/s/c2cxf76fcr/cg-employability-survey-report-2025

² nces.nsf.gov/pubs/nsf25341

³ nces.nsf.gov/pubs/nsf25341/table/1

But all of that funding hasn't just gone to scientific inquiry. American universities have been enjoying overhead spending bonuses worth 50-60% of their research grants for decades. That means that for every dollar in research spending, an additional 50-60 cents is given to the university for overhead.

Overhead funds are meant to go toward university and department infrastructure, but recent reports¹ have suggested exorbitant overhead spending feeds into bloated university administrations that distract from academic inquiry, including through roles and spending related to diversity, equity and inclusion. DEI is an ideological framework that shifts the focus in academic pursuits from the discovery and acquisition of knowledge to fixation on self- and group-identities. In practice, DEI has been shown to crater² campus community cohesion and free expression³, and reduce academic rigor.

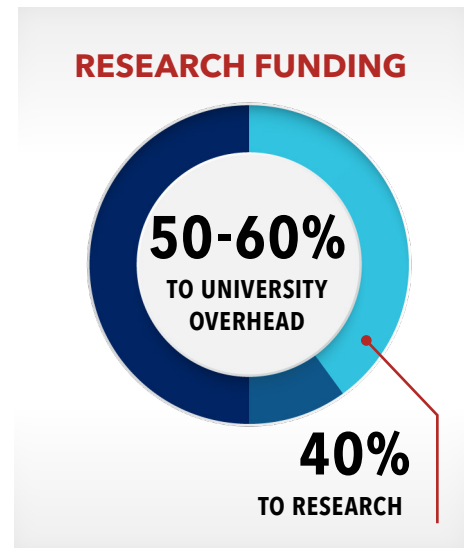
DEI is not the only source of administrative bloat or distraction from academia's truth-seeking mission, but the positions are highly visible in university staff data, and the negative impacts of DEI are already well known. That makes it a useful benchmark to track waste more broadly.

Because funding is fungible, it is difficult to account for the flow of overhead dollars through the university system without more transparency from the universities. Nevertheless, trends can be identified that bolster the argument for reducing overhead spending.

For example, a 2022 report⁴ from the Heritage Foundation studying 82 universities found a correlation between the amount of overhead spending and Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)-related staff.

The Heritage report states:

"...a \$100 million increase in cross-subsidy of private indirect costs is associated with 9.4 additional DEI employees. A 1 percentage point increase in the federal indirect cost rate is associated with 2.1 additional employees. And a \$100 million increase in the total amount of indirect costs received by a university is associated with 15.5 additional DEI employees."



1 mindingthecampus.org/2025/05/09/to-rescue-science-phase-out-research-grants/
 2 nytimes.com/2024/10/16/magazine/dei-university-michigan.html
 3 thehill.com/opinion/education/5330506-college-indoctrination-free-expression/
 4 heritage.org/education/report/indirect-costs-how-taxpayers-subsidize-university-nonsense

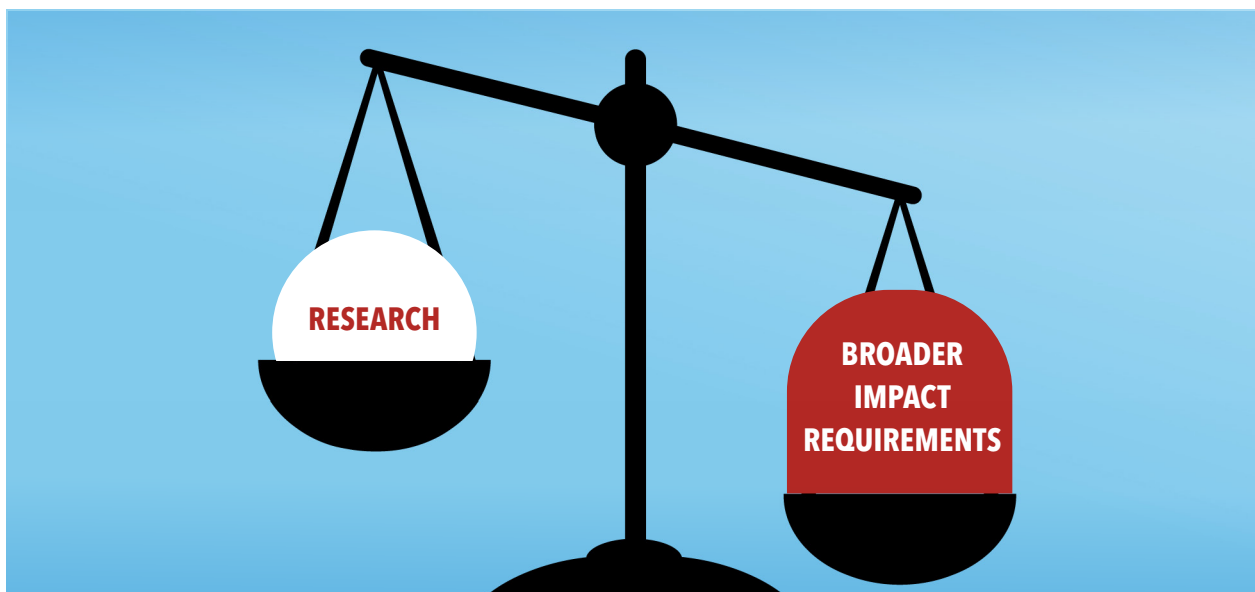
But overhead spending is not contributing to waste alone. Grant-making rules, in some cases mandated by Congress, have added additional requirements to scientific endeavors, called “broader impacts,” which cut into direct spending as well. On top of conducting research, scientists often must state in grant applications how they will participate in public relations services like designing museum exhibits, conducting middle school lab demonstrations, or developing podcasts, in the name of having a “broader impact” beyond scientific discovery.

These requirements not only divert funds and attention away from research; they give universities incentives to build out even more administration to facilitate outreach activities. Explicit inclusion requirements, like targeting women or “underserved minorities” for such federally funded programmatic activities, also further embed the DEI ideology within the campus climate.

Open the Books examined such requirements from the National Science Foundation (NSF). NSF spent **\$7.4 billion** in research and development grants in FY 2024, leaving it in the middle of major agency R&D grantors. NSF projects span a wide variety of scientific fields, from computer science to geology and more.

This report examines research and overhead funds granted to five universities over ten years, along with the growth of administration and, in particular, DEI-related positions. The impact of broader impact requirements embedded in grant proposals is also explored.

The results will demonstrate that universities are undermining their former commitments to true scientific endeavor in research, in favor of building ever more new administrative functions and special projects.



METHODOLOGY

Five universities: University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Rutgers University, University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign, and University of Virginia were featured in the Open the Books State of the State Schools¹ report (Jan. 2025) discussing left-wing radicalism, including antisemitism, at top public universities.

These universities were chosen for their high public university rankings (only public universities will provide salary data via public records request) and because previous research at Open the Books determined they have reliable and detailed payroll data that includes both titles and departments of employees, unlike many other universities. Payroll data for the years 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021, and 2024 was obtained via public records request. Four of the universities complied with our request.

Disappointingly, University of Virginia only produced data for 2019, 2021, and 2024. The university also failed to provide staff titles and departments, as they had in response to previous open records requests from Open the Books. Analysis for UVA is therefore comparatively incomplete.

This start year was chosen because, as will be described in the National Science Foundation section of this report, it was near the beginning of the impacts of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010, which mandated various community outreach, education, DEI and public relations work to access NSF grants. These requirements fundamentally transformed universities and their approach to scientific research.

Open the Books researchers used payroll data to track the increase in DEI-related positions and departments using a variety of keywords, and also to track the increase in staffers more generally.

The keywords used were:

DEI	Diversity	Equity	Inclusion
Inclusive	Justice	Cultural	LGBT
Latin	Black	Hispanic	

We did not include “studies” departments like “Gender Studies” or “Black Studies.” While some DEI-related positions may have fallen out of the scope of these keywords, we believe these keywords are broad enough that most would be captured.

¹ openthebooks.com/assets/1/6/State_of_the_State_Schools_Oversight_Report_FINAL.pdf

Data on federal research and development funding at profiled universities was obtained from the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics¹, a statistical agency within the National Science Foundation. Open the Books used the Higher Education Research and Development Survey² dataset. These figures were also used to calculate maximum overhead spending amounts. Because of transparency issues that will be discussed in the report, it is currently unknown how much in total overhead spending any single university receives, but a maximum amount can be calculated using a university's publicly published federally negotiated overhead rate for on-campus research and development projects.

Data on research and development projects funded by the NSF were downloaded on the NSF Award Search³ website. NSF grants were chosen, as opposed to the more numerous HHS grants, because of the transformative, well-documented impact of NSF on universities nationwide through its "broader impacts" requirements. Unlike HHS, NSF also funds a far wider range of issue areas in engineering, physics, mathematics, and earth sciences, compared to HHS.

This data was analyzed for key words like "broader impacts" and other DEI-related terminologies and used as examples in this report. These selections offer a sense of how universities and grant recipients respond to incentives to inject DEI into grant proposals. Examples were chosen for scientific projects that did not have a DEI objective but rather had DEI-related "broader impacts" work added to them.



**NATIONAL
SCIENCE
FOUNDATION**



**NATIONAL CENTER
FOR SCIENCE AND
ENGINEERING
STATISTICS**

¹ nces.nsf.gov/about

² nces.nsf.gov/surveys/higher-education-research-development/2023#data

³ nsf.gov/awardsearch/simple-search/

TOP TEN TAKEAWAYS

01 Many top universities enjoy 50-70% overhead rates for on-campus research and development grants, negotiated every few years between the institution and the federal government.

02 In early 2025 the Trump administration attempted to slash those rates to 15%. That decrease has been put on hold as subsequent court cases are litigated.

03 There are no official aggregate or university-level figures on how much federal overhead funding flows into universities. Researchers and policymakers can only estimate using average overhead rates and total spending, but rates can vary widely based on whether work for the project is held on or off campus. The type of work can also impact overhead rates (conferences vs. lab work). The lack of transparency hurts public accountability.

04 With such hefty overhead rates, universities stand to gain billions in additional funds each year from R&D grants. University of Michigan-Ann Arbor had the most potential overhead funding at **\$3.2 billion** during the timeframe analyzed.

05 Open the Books filed a public records request for a research proposal and progress reports for a project that developed “anti-racist” curriculum based on the Southern Poverty Law Center’s education materials, to be used in middle schools. **The project cost about \$2.5 million and, thanks to a mandated 56% overhead rate, the overhead portion of that cost was \$1.1 million.**

06 **National Science Foundation “broader impacts” requirements were developed by the agency in 1997 and later enacted by Congress in the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010.** University grantees were then required to demonstrate how their experiments would help society, including by creating race- and sex-based programs to “broaden participation in STEM.”

07 **In a standard on-campus research project, a university’s administration can only access 26% of the total overhead funds to spend however it sees fit.** The lab conducting the research gets the rest. But “broader impacts” requirements sometimes include DEI-focused university-wide programs that extend beyond the lab. **Because those programs are included as project activities in the grant proposal, the administration could then also access principal research funding not related to overhead.**

08 **All four universities in this report substantially increased their DEI-related staffing and staff salaries over the past eleven years.** The most dramatic increase was at University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, where **DEI-related staff climbed from 27 to 179 (a 563% increase).** **Related payroll grew from \$2.1 million in 2013 to \$17.8 million in 2024 (a 714% increase).**

09 **Defunding taxpayer-funded DEI offices can be effective.** The only university that began dismantling their DEI offices during this report’s timeline was University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, which saw a drop in DEI-related staff from 71 in 2021 to 41 in 2022.

10 **UNC-Chapel Hill, UM-Ann Arbor, and University of Virginia have made more moves this year to dissolve their DEI offices.** Subsequent research must analyze their future payrolls to determine whether employees are being terminated, changing work focus, or just doing DEI-related work under another title.

OVERHEAD

There are no official figures on how much federal overhead funding flows into universities. Amounts are generally estimated based on on-campus research and development rates, which often range between **50-70%** and are individually negotiated between each university grantee and the federal government.

Universities renegotiate their rates every two, three, or four years depending on the institution. Off-campus rates are capped at **26%**. Beyond research, the federal government could also pay overhead fees for “other sponsored activities” like conferences or community service programs, which can also have their own overhead rate.

See this example from the University of Houston¹ on how rates differ among types and locations of a federally funded project.

CURRENT UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON NEGOTIATED F&A RATES

EFFECTIVE PERIOD	TYPE OF ACTIVITY	ON CAMPUS	OFF CAMPUS
9/1/2024 - 8/31/2027	Organized Research	57%	26%
	Other Sponsored Activities	37%	26%

Overhead funding is not separated from research funding in federal grant databases like USASpending.gov or the NSF research archive, making it a particularly difficult area to monitor.

There is no data on the percentage of R&D projects funded off campus versus on campus. Some projects are also awarded to multiple university recipients, and it is unclear how overhead funding would be allocated in those instances.

¹ uh.edu/research/sponsored-projects/proc-pol-guide/indirect-costs/idc-explained/index.php

A report¹ from the National Association of Scholars argues that bundling a project's direct costs and overhead costs muddles the purpose of R&D spending, and puts the aims of scientists and administrators into conflict:

"While scientists pursue research funding for discovery, institutions want research grants to generate revenue. Because scientists are employees, and administrations are employers, administrations' interests will always have the upper hand². This is the means whereby academic scientists are reduced to being generators of revenue, not agents of discovery."

The report argues that separating out the funding would give policymakers and the public a better sense of how their R&D tax dollars are being spent, and would also restore scientific discovery to its proper preeminence in the grant proposal process.

Another National Association of Scholars report found that in 2023 the federal government gave universities **\$60 billion** in research grants. Indirect costs were an estimated³ **\$22 billion** of that, calculated by using a **53%** overhead rate - roughly the standard for most universities.

The report states that if rates were reduced to **15%**, universities would then only receive **\$8-9 billion**, arguing that the remainder - about **\$14 billion** - could instead be used for more direct funding for science research.

Overhead rate funding is split between facilities and administration costs (the term is officially called an "F&A rate" on federal documents). The administration would be the university itself, and the facilities would be the labs hosting the scientific research. Following a scandal⁴ at Stanford in the 1980s that saw administrators billing personal expenses like yachts, travel, and parties as research overhead, the administration cost portion of an F&A rate was capped at **26%**.

1 mindingthecampus.org/2025/05/09/to-rescue-science-phase-out-research-grants/

2 heritage.org/science-policy/report/science-and-the-decline-the-american-academy

3 mindingthecampus.org/2025/04/09/15-billion-saved-from-indirect-costs-boosts-research/

4 time.com/archive/6717293/scandal-in-the-laboratories/

CASE STUDY:

Research Putting Southern Poverty Law Center in the Classroom

One of the only avenues researchers can pursue to ascertain the overhead rate for a given project is through filing a Freedom of Information Request (FOIA) for the proposal and progress reports of target research.

Open the Books requested such documents from HHS subagency National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities for a University of Michigan-Ann Arbor project called “Youth Empowerment Solutions: Engaging Youth for Anti-Racism and Cultural Equity (YES-ERACE).” The federal grant for this project was **\$2.5 million**.

The project integrated “the Teaching Tolerance curriculum from the Southern Poverty Law Center” into an existing local middle school program called Youth Empowerment Solutions. UM-Ann Arbor researchers said they would use a “group-randomized trial design in the summer programs across 6 middle schools” and “examine the effects of the curriculum on individual youths’ sense of empowerment, racist behaviors, and violent behavior.”

The “efficacy of the YES-ERACE” program would be tested “in a randomized design on empowered outcomes which will mediate the effects of YES-ERACE on perpetration of racist attitudes and behavior” and on a “model that predicts empowered outcomes will mediate perpetration of racism, and that YES-ERACE effects on aggressive and violent behavior will also be mediated by reducing perpetration of racism over time.”

The curriculum included lessons on “white supremacy,” “media stereotypes,” “LGBTQ appreciation,” and “solidarity.”

2) We include a new lesson on LGBTQ appreciation (lesson 1.8), given the history of LGBTQ discrimination and activism in the U.S. This lesson connects to what students learn in the program about racial/ethnic discrimination, and provides additional context for understanding social justice movements in the United States. Relatedly, we added an activity and discussion addressing physical differences and disability.

Excerpt from Youth Empowerment Solutions: Engaging Youth for Anti-Racism and Cultural Equity (YES-ERACE) progress report

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN NEGOTIATED F&A RATES

GRANT NUMBER: 1R01MD015024-01

INSTITUTION: The Regents of the University of Michigan

Facilities and Administrative Costs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
F&A Cost Rate 1	56%	56%	56%	56%	56%
F&A Cost Base 1	\$424,999	\$415,289	\$415,544	\$415,544	\$424,891
F&A Costs 1	\$237,999	\$232,562	\$232,705	\$232,705	\$237,939

Documents produced through FOIA state the researchers obtained the standard on-campus overhead rate the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor commands: **56%**, or \$1,173,910.

The grant proposal went into tremendous detail on its direct costs, which include:

- **\$3,400** for computers “to develop curriculum documents, manage...data, and communicate with partners, research staff, and faculty.”
- **\$15,000** for supplies like copier and printer paper, clipboards, folders, and envelopes, along with swag for youth participants.
- **\$512,500** to pay participating schools to implement the project.
- **\$5,000** for “anti-racism and cultural equity ‘train the trainer’ for staff and faculty” with “experts in the Teaching Tolerance curriculum.”
- **\$48,000** for consulting from an expert in “racism [and] racial identity and adolescence.”
- **\$16,000** for an advisory board “with expertise in the Teaching Tolerance curriculum, health equity and anti-racism training.”

Given that direct costs cover computers and office supplies (which are not particularly expensive, as outlined above), it is unclear how this project can justify over **\$1 million** in overhead costs, except for the fact that it is automatically mandated by law.

Open the Books received these documents roughly ten weeks after submitting the public records request. However, the federal agencies already have this data. Simply making it publicly accessible will go a long way toward improving transparency and trust in scientific spending.

Universities, which have suffered reputational blows from hard-left campus activism and programmatic activities in recent years, could additionally volunteer to release data on overhead flows and amounts to regain the trust that taxpayer dollars are being put to good use.

According to the grant profile on USASpending¹, the YES-ERACE project is still active and receiving federal funds.

Read the original documents from the FOIA request here:

[YES-ERACE Award Application](#)²

[YES-ERACE Award Notice](#)³

[YES-ERACE Progress Reports](#)⁴

¹ usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_R01MD015024_7529/

² openthebooks.com/assets/1/6/Overhead_YESERACE_1.pdf

³ openthebooks.com/assets/1/6/Overhead_YESERACE_2.pdf

⁴ openthebooks.com/assets/1/6/Overhead_YESERACE_3.pdf

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION: From Basic Research to Public Relations and DEI



The National Science Foundation was created by an act of Congress and signed into law¹ in 1950. The initial law called for funding basic science research and supporting graduate students in science through scholarships and fellowships.

In 1968, the agency underwent a dramatic shift because of the Daddario-Kennedy amendment, which added social science to its research mandate and instructed the agency to fund “applied science.”

The amendment empowered the agency to work toward solving social problems, and this shift was reinforced in subsequent years as lawmakers and agency administrators sought to require NSF to have “broader impacts²” on society beyond scientific discovery.

“Broader impacts” became a distinct criterion for grant consideration in 1997, along with “intellectual merit.”

The America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010, for instance, mandated NSF to have a “broader impacts” requirement in grant criterion and defined seven possible “broader impacts” goals³.

Some of these goals, like “increasing the economic competitiveness of the United States” and “supporting the national defense,” seem largely unproblematic. Another, “advancing the health and welfare of the American public” sounds good until we remember the public health establishment during 2020 believed people should stay inside for months on end (unless they were attending a Black Lives Matter protest).



¹ [nsf.gov-resources.nsf.gov/2023-04/NSF_act_1950_legislation.pdf](https://www.nsf.gov-resources.nsf.gov/2023-04/NSF_act_1950_legislation.pdf)

² [nsf.gov/funding/learn/broader-impacts](https://www.nsf.gov/funding/learn/broader-impacts)

³ [uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=%28title%3A42+section%3A1862p-14+edition%3Aprelim%29](https://www.uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=%28title%3A42+section%3A1862p-14+edition%3Aprelim%29)

Several others explicitly attempt to reinvent NSF grantee universities by orienting them around public relations, “scientific literacy,” K-12 education, and engagement with and recruitment of prospective researchers based on their identity rather than purely on their merit.

Those broader impact criteria are:

- Developing an American STEM workforce that is globally competitive through improved pre-kindergarten through grade 12 STEM education and teacher development and improved undergraduate STEM education and instruction.
- Improving public scientific literacy and engagement with science and technology in the United States.
- Expanding participation of women and individuals from underrepresented groups in STEM.

The movement of NSF from basic hard sciences to applied science, including social science, pushed the agency leftward. The America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 then gave a Congressional mandate for NSF to coerce grantee institutes into practices that reward identity, not merit. And because of the emphasis on public outreach, universities were encouraged to spread these DEI ideas further into their local communities. Scientists were then rewarded for being science communicators, rather than for their potential for scientific discovery alone.

As discussed in a 2014 NSF report¹, “Perspectives on Broader Impacts,” universities reoriented their internal infrastructure substantially to become aligned with the “broader impacts” mandate.

The report states:

“America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 reaffirmed the importance of the broader impacts criterion and encouraged institutions of higher education and nonprofit organizations to take an institutional approach toward achieving the societal benefits championed via broader impacts. This institutional approach has been embraced by a number of institutions of higher education and nonprofits, who are collectively pooling their expertise and experiences to put in place on their campuses the broader impacts infrastructure that is necessary.”

¹ nsf.gov-resources.nsf.gov/2022-09/Broader_Impacts_0.pdf

The changes were facilitated by a **\$500,000**¹ four-year grant to the University of Missouri for the Broader Impacts and Outreach Network for Institutional Collaboration (BIONIC)” program, which brought together many universities to brainstorm ideas on how to comply with the new mandate. The grant was awarded in 2014. Today, University of Missouri is a hub² for a cottage industry of “broader impacts” consultants, nonprofits, and university initiatives now needed to secure grants.

Outreach in the sciences sounds like a nice idea, but what this means in practice is researchers, who are supposed to be solving difficult scientific problems, are being asked to work in communications, public relations, and K-12 education.

It also means that universities can create in-house DEI- or outreach-related programs to scoop up direct research funding because those programs are listed in proposal activities. While overhead funding is a black box where taxpayer dollars can get lost, because of broader impacts requirements moving money away from scientific research, direct funding is becoming a black box too.



1 munewsarchives.missouri.edu/news-releases/2014/0814-mu-initiative-receives-500000-nsf-grant-to-augment-public-science-education-and-outreach/
2 theconnector.missouri.edu/broader-impacts/proposal-consulting/

A look through recent grants highlighted elsewhere in this report demonstrates how this works:

- **\$600,000¹** for a 2024 chemistry project called “Unravelling the Nature of Elusive Transition Metal-oxyl Complexes.” While investigating the structural and magnetic properties of various compounds, the grant promises that scientists will “engage in STEM outreach programs focused on recruiting Underrepresented Minority (URM) high school students to STEM fields.” The principal investigator for this grant “directs the D-RISE² program, which provides 6 weeks, full-time summer research opportunities to high school students from the greater Detroit area.”
- **\$1,490,276³** for a project seeking to develop a dog-like robot that can manipulate objects and navigate “unstructured, dynamic environments.” The project also states that “efforts will be made to introduce the research, in particular the hardware demonstrations, to K-12 students to cultivate their early interests in robotics, which touches all aspects of STEM. In the process, the [Principal Investigators] will aim to leverage diversity programs at Rutgers University to recruit and support underrepresented groups.”



FURTHER READING: Open the Books previously reported on federally funded podcasts⁴, which are also sometimes included as add-ons to grant proposals in the name of scientific “public outreach.”

openthebooks.substack.com/p/the-podcast-tax-if-youre-paying-taxes

When critics of Trump’s plan to eliminate NSF discuss funding cuts to science, they don’t mention that funds for actual scientific discovery are already being cut into with Congressionally mandated, ideologically motivated, side projects.

¹ usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_2350055_049

² lsa.umich.edu/chem/WhoWeAre/d-rise.html

³ usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_2132972_049

⁴ openthebooks.substack.com/p/the-podcast-tax-if-youre-paying-taxes

UNIVERSITIES: Federal Overhead Spending and DEI-Related Staffers

University of Michigan - Ann Arbor

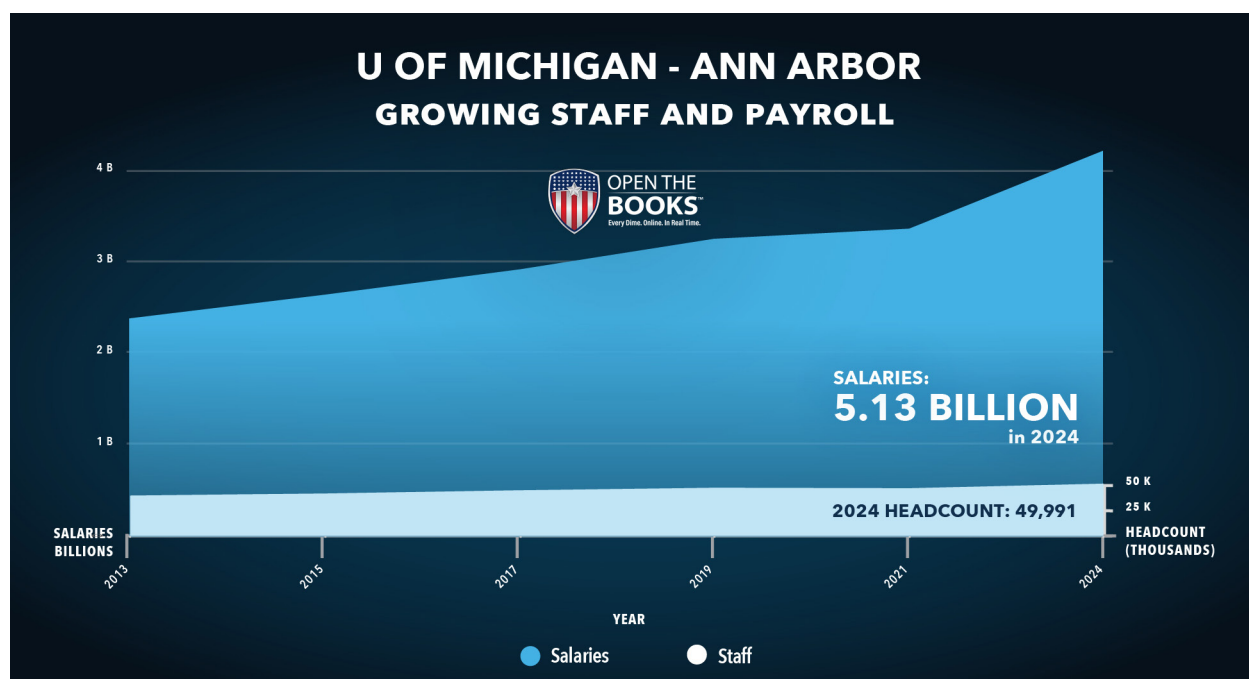


The University of Michigan - Ann Arbor is consistently ranked among the top five universities for federally-financed research and development expenditures. It ranked number five in 2023.

From 2013-2023 the university received **\$9.4 billion** in research funding, averaging **\$857 million a year** (data for 2024 is not yet available).

Grants are mostly from Health and Human Services (\$6.3 billion) and the National Science Foundation (\$979 million). During that time, the university's negotiated overhead rate was between 55 and 56%. We can estimate that the maximum amount in overhead UM Ann Arbor received was about \$3.2 billion.

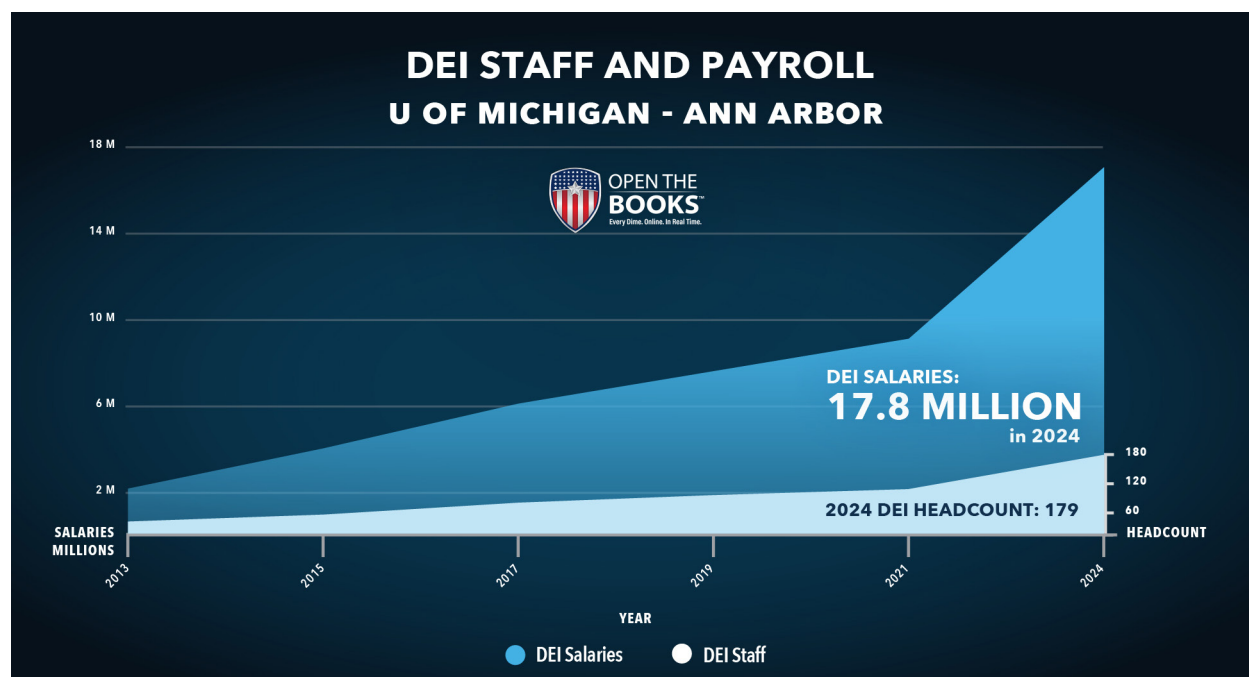
The university's number of staff ballooned by 11,836 over the decade: from 38,155 in 2013 to 49,991 in 2024. Salary spending likewise grew from \$2.9 billion in 2013 to \$5.1 billion in 2024.



Only **1,453** of the nearly **12,000** additional staffers in 2024 compared to 2013 had the title "professor," "lecturer," or "instructor." Those titles went from **6,064** in 2013 to **7,517** in 2024.

The addition of staff outpaced the increase in the student body, which went up about 9,000; from 43,710 students in 2013 (including undergraduates and graduate students), to 52,855 in 2024. More than one staffer was added for each additional student.

Likewise, DEI positions and departments grew substantially from 2013-2024, from 27 positions with **\$2.1 million** in salaries in 2013 to 179 positions with **\$17.8 million** in salaries in 2024.



It's clear from the data that the university went all in on DEI. One of the DEI staffers, Rachel Dawson (2024 salary: \$191,660), director of the university's Office of Academic Multicultural Initiatives, was accused of making antisemitic comments and was fired in December 2024.

She allegedly said, **"The university is controlled by wealthy Jews."**

Dawson was also accused of saying, **"We don't work with Jews. They are wealthy and privileged and take care of themselves"** and that **"Jewish people have 'no genetic DNA' that would connect them to the land of Israel,"** CNN reported.

In July 2025 Dawson, who is black, sued UM-Ann Arbor for alleged racial and gender discrimination. Dawson claimed the allegations against her were false and exaggerated, according to The New York Times. The University responded in a comment to The Michigan Daily¹, stating they would "vigorously defend" their justifications for firing her.

¹ michigandaily.com/news/news-briefs/former-dei-administrator-sues-umich-over-alleged-discrimination-in-termination/

Also in 2024, New York Times investigative reporter Nicholas Confessore published an exhaustive magazine report¹ on the outcomes of these and other DEI investments, **concluding that DEI had begun fostering the exact opposite of its intended effect.**

Confessore noted that in a 2022 survey, “students and faculty members reported a less positive campus climate than at the program’s start and less of a sense of belonging. Students were less likely to interact with people of a different race or religion or with different politics – the exact kind of engagement DEI programs, in theory, are meant to foster.”

In the wake of that story, the UM Board of Regents removed diversity statement requirements from its hiring decisions.

Following Trump’s executive orders against DEI at publicly funded universities, on March 27, 2025, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor closed its Office of DEI and Office for Health Equity and Inclusion. It also canceled its DEI 2.0 Strategic Plan.

The failure of UM-Ann Arbor’s DEI infrastructure plagued its then-president Santa Ono’s bid for the presidency of the University of Florida in May 2025. Ono had served as UM-Ann Arbor’s president since October 2022 and said he once embraced the university’s DEI culture because he believed² the DEI framework would ensure “equal opportunity and fairness for every student.” **He later came to realize DEI was “more about ideology, division, and bureaucracy, not student success” and “made the decision to eliminate centralized DEI offices and redirect resources toward academic support and merit-based achievement.”** While Ono stated he would not bring DEI to UF, he did not convince the Florida Board of Governors, who ultimately rejected his final approval for the role with a 10-6 vote.

While UM-Ann Arbor’s DEI build-out was extreme compared to similar public universities, administrators were encouraged to expand DEI infrastructure thanks to federal grant requirements mandating so called “broader impacts.”

¹ [nytimes.com/2024/10/16/magazine/dei-university-michigan.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/10/16/magazine/dei-university-michigan.html)

² insidehighered.com/opinion/views/2025/05/08/why-i-chose-university-florida-santa-ono-opinion

A look through UM-Ann Arbor's recent NSF grants shows how DEI embedded in research funding through "broader impacts" even within projects that are totally unrelated to DEI topics:

- **\$600,000¹ for a 2024 chemistry project called "Unravelling the Nature of Elusive Transition Metal-oxyl Complexes."** While investigating the structural and magnetic properties of various compounds, the grant promises that scientists will "engage in STEM outreach programs focused on recruiting Underrepresented Minority (URM) high school students to STEM fields." The principal investigator for this grant "directs the D-RISE² program, which provides 6 weeks, full-time summer research opportunities to high school students from the greater Detroit area."
- **\$598,575³ for a 2024 astronomy project called "Multi-wavelength Imaging of Planet-forming Disks: The Inner Au of Herbig and T Tauri Stars."** In between analyzing telescope data to understand stars, researchers will facilitate an "inspiring educational experience" for "middle-schoolers in 'Wolverine Pathways,' a University of Michigan program offered to communities in the Detroit metro area who are historically under-represented in state colleges."

DECADE IN REVIEW

YEAR	SALARIES	STAFF	PROFESSORS/ LECTURERS	NON-TEACHING STAFF	DEI HEADCOUNT	DEI SALARIES
2013	\$2,918,350,138	38,155	5,867	32,288	27	\$2,194,009
2015	\$3,219,247,695	40,228	6,575	33,653	43	\$4,115,363
2017	\$3,570,276,180	43,325	6,838	36,487	70	\$6,312,190
2019	\$3,971,805,236	45,731	7,186	38,545	87	\$7,895,777
2021	\$4,111,861,945	45,268	7,227	38,041	101	\$9,488,167
2024	\$5,137,198,200	49,991	7,517	42,474	179	\$17,857,699
PERCENT CHANGE, 2013-2024	76%	31%	28%	32%	563%	714%

UM-Ann Arbor saw an astonishing 714% increase in DEI salary spending and 563% increase in DEI staffers. DEI staff growth outpaced total staff increases, which saw just 32% growth. Professors, lecturers, and instructors saw a 28% increase. Staff outside of those teaching roles increased by 32%.

¹ usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_2350055_049

² lsa.umich.edu/chem/WhoWeAre/d-rise.html

³ usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_2406873_4900/

University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill

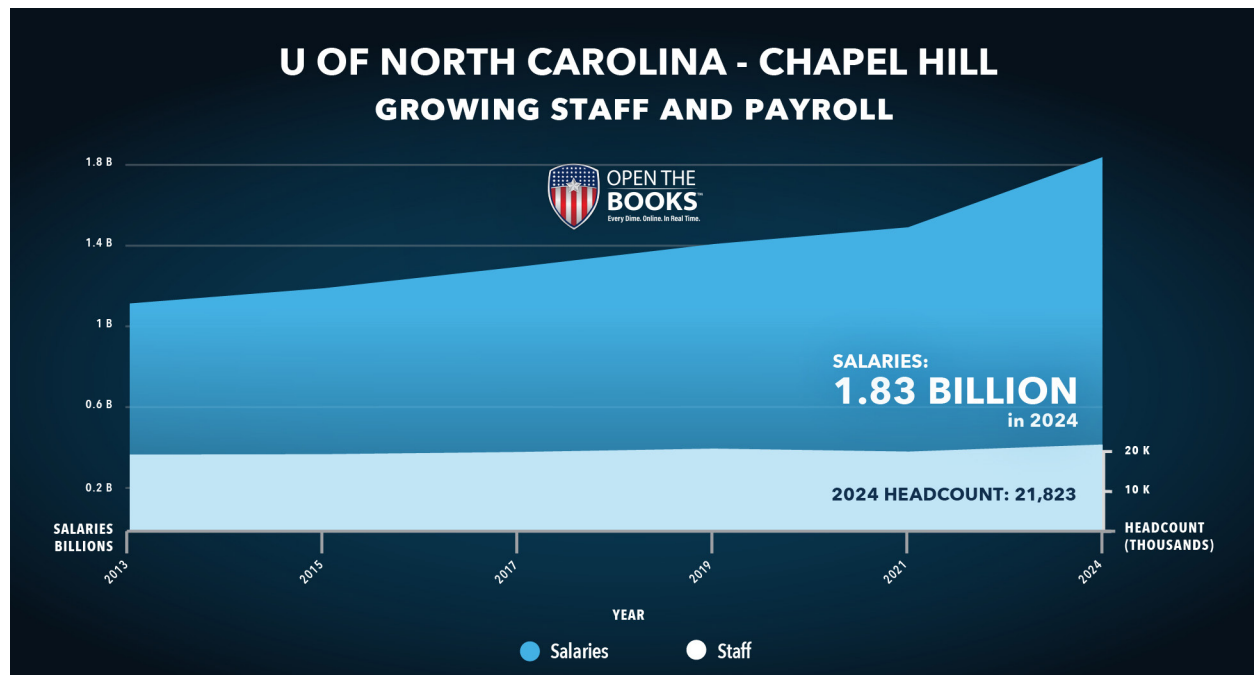


The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

The University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill was ranked number 11 for federally financed R&D expenditures in 2023 (the most recent year available). From 2013-2023 the university received **\$7.7 billion** in research funding, averaging **\$700 million a year**. Grants came mostly from the Department of Health and Human Services (\$5.9 billion) and the National Science Foundation (\$434.6 million).

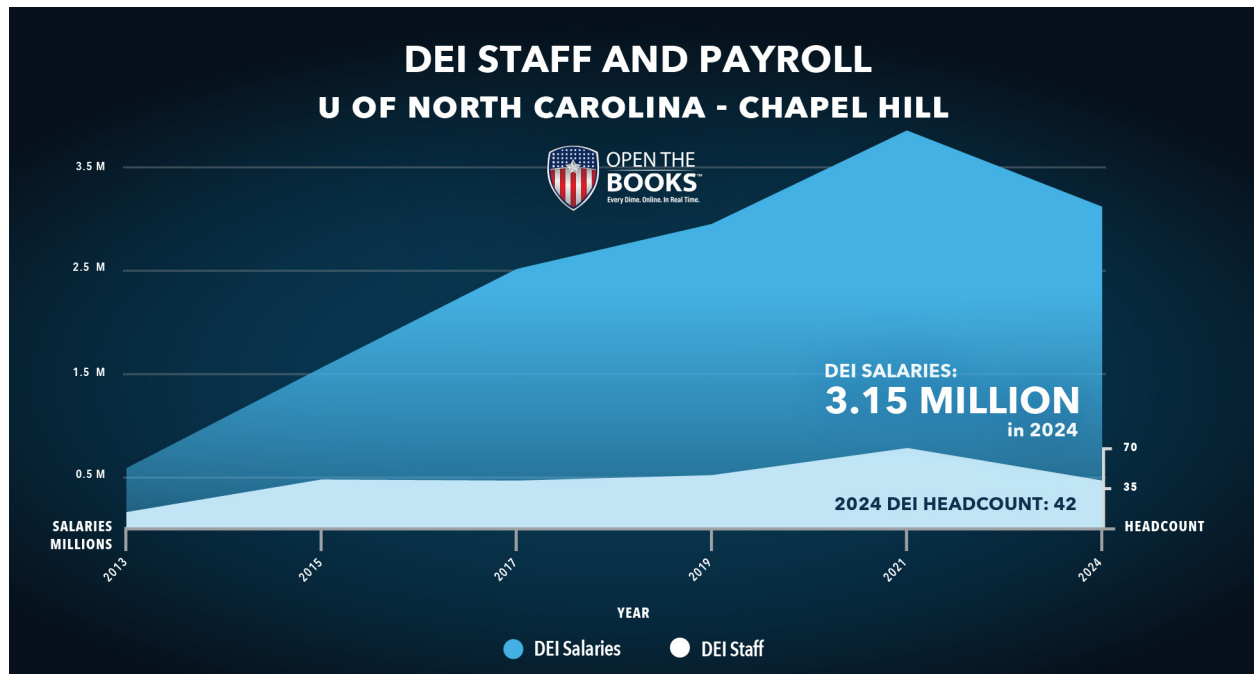
During that time, the university's negotiated overhead rate was between 52% and 55%, so a maximum of around **\$2.6 billion** of that total funding went to overhead expenses over the years.

Total staff at the university grew by about 2,500 from 2013-2024. Salary spending likewise grew by \$721,069,942, from \$1.1 billion to \$1.8 billion. At the same time, the number¹ of total students (undergraduates and graduate students) rose by 3,747, from 65,512 in 2013 to 69,259 in 2024.



Of the 2,501 additional staffers from 2013-2024, 1,737 had the title "professor," "lecturer," or "instructor".

¹ collegetuitioncompare.com/trends/university-of-north-carolina-at-chapel-hill/student-population/



DEI positions and departments also grew substantially from 2013-2015, from 14 positions with **\$588,696** in salaries in 2013 to 42 positions with **\$3.1 million** in salaries in 2024. DEI positions peaked in this dataset in 2021 with 71 positions worth \$3.8 million.

In 2019 the UNC system’s Board of Governors approved a requirement¹ for all campuses to have a Chief Diversity Officer, a Diversity & Inclusion Council, and Diversity & Inclusion metrics and goals, among other policies.

In 2023 the UNC system began dissolving its DEI infrastructure. In February of that year the UNC system dropped its DEI hiring requirements, stating it could no longer “solicit nor require an employee or applicant for academic admission or employment to affirmatively ascribe to or opine about beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles regarding matters of contemporary political debate or social action as a condition to admission, employment, or professional advancement.”

Later that year, UNC Chapel Hill’s Board of Trustees diverted \$2.3 million away from DEI efforts and toward “Public Safety” in response to pro-Palestinian protests and encampments.

In 2024 UNC banned all DEI offices, making it one of a handful of state university systems beginning to pare back its “diversity, equity and inclusion” infrastructure at that time.

While the UNC system formally dropped its 2019 DEI policy and sought “institutional neutrality,” most DEI-related staff were reassigned including “to focus on student success, employee wellbeing or community building.”

¹ northcarolina.edu/apps/policy/doc.php?id=150

A look through UNC-Chapel Hill’s recent NSF grants illustrates how DEI has become embedded in research funding through “broader impacts” requirements, even within projects that are totally unrelated to DEI topics:

- **\$510,000¹** for a chemistry research project that “will develop new carbon-based electrode materials with controlled composition using chemical vapor deposition techniques.” The project will also train “a diverse group of graduate and undergraduate students,” and “several community outreach activities are planned with a focus on promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion with a special emphasis on promoting LGBTQ+ participation in scientific research and in society as a whole.”
- **\$1.2 million²** for a biology research project on “predicting cell fate from cell history,” which would “employ fluorescence time-lapse microscopy to quantify inheritance patterns across thousands of related cells.” But money would also be spent to “produce an online game in which students from an urban elementary school will create ‘family trees’ for cells by tracing images of cells over time.” This is meant provide an opportunity to “teach underrepresented groups.”

DECADE IN REVIEW:

YEAR	SALARIES	STAFF	PROFESSORS/ LECTURERS	NON-TEACHING STAFF	DEI HEADCOUNT	DEI SALARIES
2013	\$1,112,702,938	19,322	4,999	14,323	14	\$588,696
2015	\$1,190,367,567	19,337	5,410	13,927	43	\$1,573,342
2017	\$1,292,367,567	19,915	5,721	14,194	42	\$2,543,480
2019	\$1,406,579,771	20,738	6,170	14,568	47	\$2,981,617
2021	\$1,486,748,161	20,060	6,327	13,733	71	\$3,898,946
2024	\$1,833,772,880	21,823	6,736	15,087	42	\$3,152,888
PERCENT CHANGE, 2013-2024	65%	13%	35%	5%	200%	436%

UNC-Chapel Hill saw a 436% increase in DEI-related salary spending and a 200% increase in DEI-related staffers. That outpaced total and non-teaching staff increases, which saw 13% and 5% growth, respectively. Professors, lecturers, and instructors saw a 35% increase.

¹ usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_2305065_049

² usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_1845796_049

Rutgers University



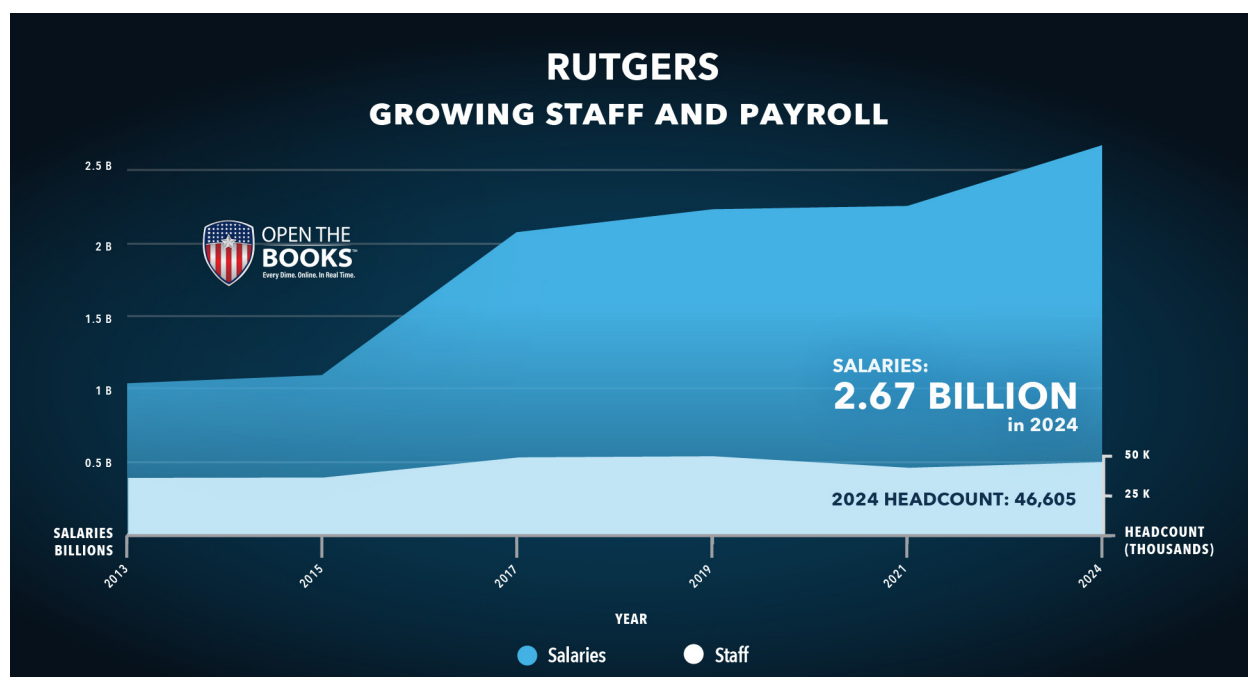
RUTGERS

The following data include all three Rutgers University campuses unless stated otherwise: New Brunswick, Newark, and Camden. The New Brunswick campus is the largest¹, with over 50,000 students. Newark and Camden have about 11,000 and 5,600 students, respectively.

Rutgers-New Brunswick was ranked number 48 for federally financed R&D expenditures in 2023 (the most recent year available). Newark ranked number 255 and Camden ranked number 407. From 2013-2023, all of the university campuses collectively received **\$3.8 billion** in research funding, **averaging \$350 million per year**. Most of the funds came from two agencies: the Department of Health and Human Services (\$2.2 billion) and the National Science Foundation (\$603 million).

During that time, the university's negotiated overhead rate was between 55% and 57%. Using an average rate of 56% overhead, an **estimated maximum \$1.4 billion of the total \$3.8 billion** in funding went to overhead expenses during those years. By that calculation, **as little as \$2.4 billion is left to use for direct costs**.

Meanwhile total university staff increased by 10,283 from 2013-2024: from 36,532 in 2013 to 46,605 in 2024. Salary spending likewise grew from \$1 billion in 2013 to \$2.6 billion in 2024. At the same time, the number of total students (undergraduates and graduate students) grew by just 3,747: from 65,512 in 2013 to 69,259 in 2024.

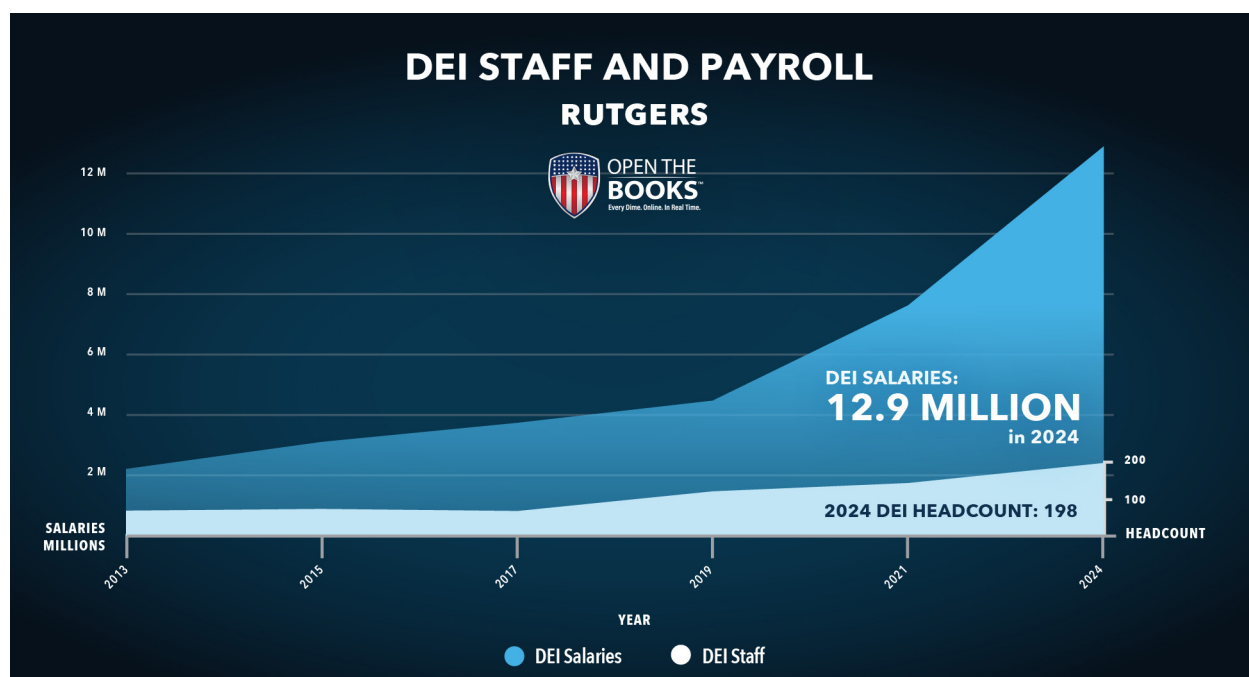


¹ rutgers.edu/about/by-the-numbers

That means for every additional student, Rutgers added 2.74 more staffers over those years.

Only about 2,500 of the 10,283 staffers added between 2013 and 2024 had the title “professor,” “lecturer,” or “instructor.” Staff with those titles grew from 6,606 in 2013 to a peak of 10,048 in 2019 before falling back to 9,077 in 2024.

DEI-related positions and departments have grown substantially over the years, especially since 2017. In 2024, there were 198 staff in such positions. Counts include part-time and temporary workers but not student workers. Staff salary expenses for DEI-related roles grew from **\$2.2 million in 2013 to \$12.9 million in 2024.**



Unlike other colleges in this report, Rutgers has made few public moves to scale back its DEI infrastructure and still maintains a robust DEI program portfolio on its Equity and Inclusion website¹.

A look through Rutgers’ recent NSF grants reveals how DEI has become embedded in research funding, through “broader impacts” requirements, even within projects that are totally unrelated to DEI topics:

- **\$375,000²** for a health science project that would “investigate the combination of a thermosensitive polymer and crosslinking agent to quickly stabilize joints by restoring strength and original length to damaged tendons and ligaments.” In addition, grant recipients will “create research opportunities for underrepresented and first-generation undergraduate students during

¹ rutgers.edu/about-rutgers#values

² usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_2207577_049

the summers and throughout the school year...[and]...create opportunities for underrepresented students in underserved elementary schools to learn about biomedical engineering through presentations and hands-on experiments.”

- **\$1,490,276¹** for a project seeking to develop a dog-like robot that can manipulate objects and navigate “unstructured, dynamic environments.” The project also states that “efforts will be made to introduce the research, in particular, the hardware demonstrations, to K-12 students to cultivate their early interests in robotics, which touches all aspects of STEM. In the process, the [Principal Investigators] will aim to leverage diversity programs at Rutgers University to recruit and support underrepresented groups.”

DECADE IN REVIEW:

YEAR	SALARIES	STAFF	PROFESSORS/ LECTURERS	NON-TEACHING STAFF	DEI HEADCOUNT	DEI SALARIES
2013	\$1,038,644,968	36,533	6,606	29,927	69	\$2,224,110
2015	\$1,094,180,569	36,723	7,366	29,357	73	\$3,091,953
2017	\$2,071,721,995	49,463	10,016	39,447	68	\$3,751,245
2019	\$2,237,325,386	50,040	10,048	39,992	121	\$4,485,041
2021	\$2,260,498,708	42,944	8,972	33,972	144	\$7,631,068
2024	\$2,678,655,623	46,605	9,077	37,528	198	\$12,920,289
PERCENT CHANGE, 2013-2024	158%	28%	37%	25%	187%	481%

Rutgers saw a 481% increase in DEI salary spending and 187% increase in DEI staffers. DEI staff growth outpaced total staff increases, which saw a 28% growth, and non-teaching staff, which saw a 25% growth. Professors, lecturers, and instructors also saw a 28% increase over 2013.

¹ usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_2132972_049

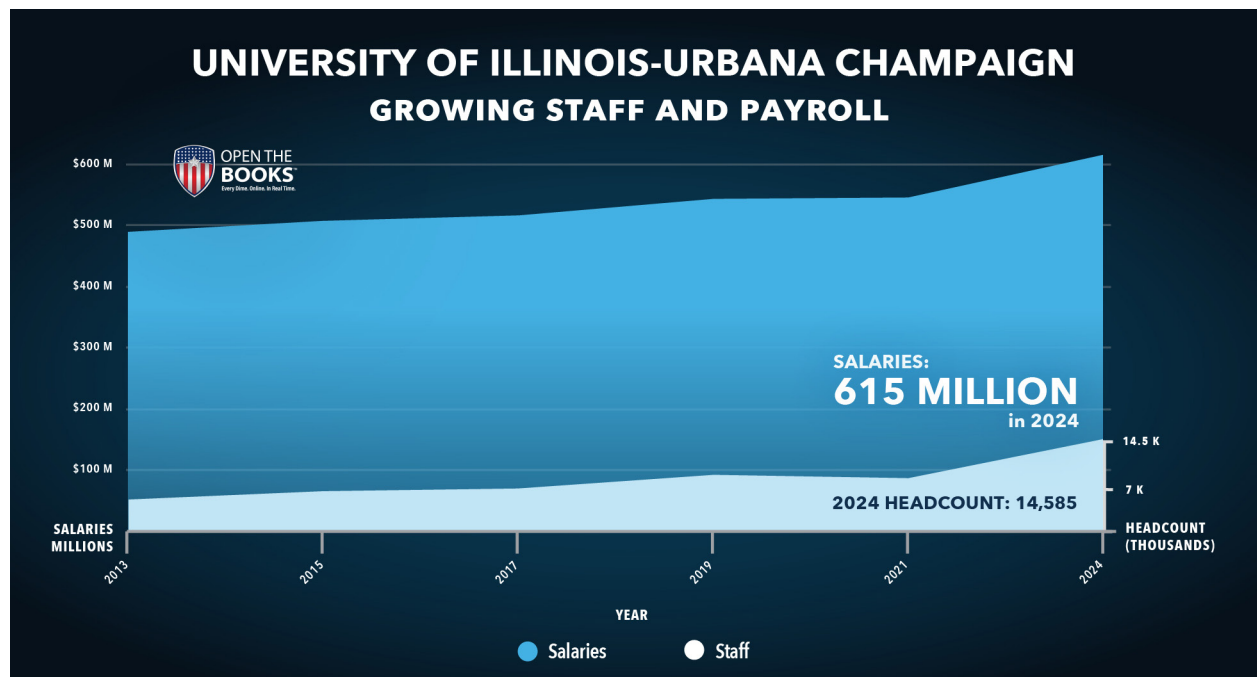
University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign



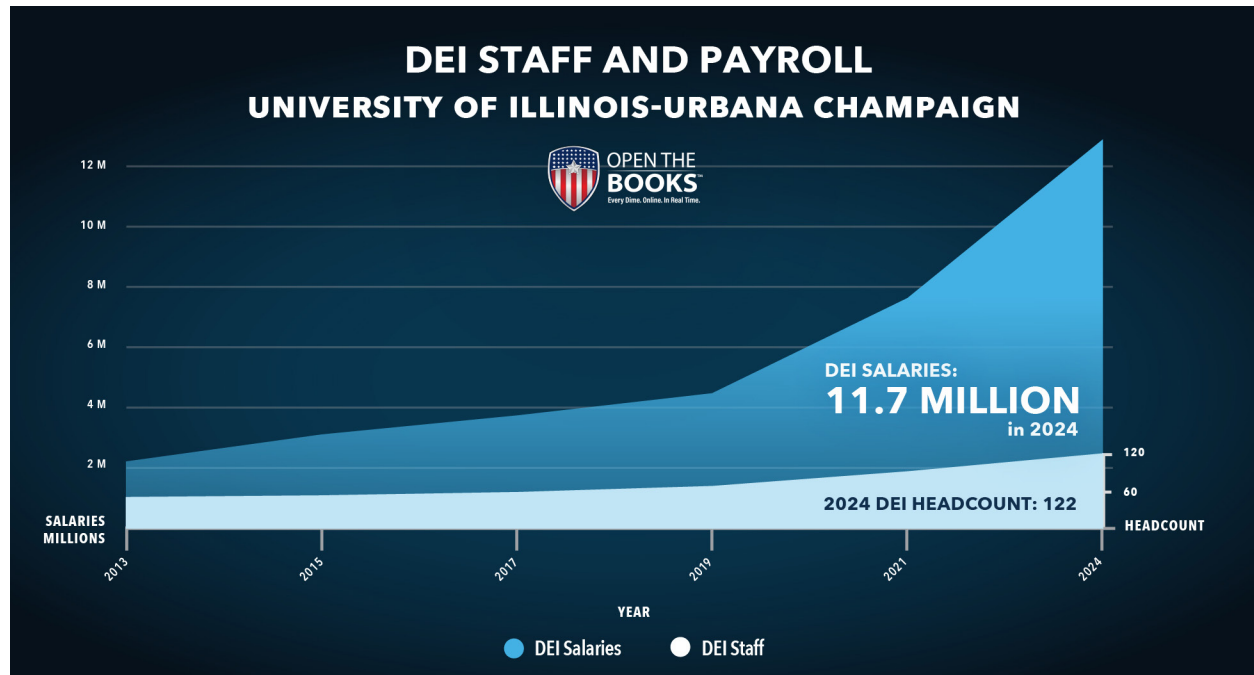
The University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign was ranked number 38 for federally financed research and development expenditures in 2023 (the most recent year available). From 2013-2023 the university received **\$4.2 billion** in research funding, averaging **\$380 million** a year. Grants to the university came mostly from NSF (\$1.5 billion), followed by the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Energy at \$727 million and \$702 million, respectively.

During that time, the university's negotiated overhead rate was between 44 - 58.6%, so a maximum of about \$1.4 billion of that total funding went to overhead expenses over those years (calculated using an average rate of 50%).

Total university staff grew by 2,031 over the decade: from 12,557 in 2013 to 14,585 in 2024. Salary spending likewise grew from \$488 million in 2013 and \$615 million in 2024.



DEI staff increased every year since 2013, jumping from 51 in 2013 to 122 in 2024. Staff DEI salary expenses went from \$2.7 million in 2013 to \$11.7 million in 2024.



Unlike other prominent universities, Illinois-Urbana Champaign is not moving to dismantle its DEI infrastructure. Instead, the university will move to explicitly comply with the Civil Rights Act by adding “open to all” language to its programs and awards. Administrators will also be reviewing scholarships, awards and events for discrimination, but will not be updating research or curriculum, according to an announcement¹ by Chancellor Robert Jones and Provost John Coleman. The university currently retains² DEI statement requirements for faculty promoting and tenure policy and will not make any attempts at reducing its DEI staff.

A look through the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign’s recent NSF grants shows how DEI has become embedded in research funding through “broader impacts” requirements, even within projects that are totally unrelated to DEI topics:

- **\$671,194³** for a biology project on “how antimicrobial functions of immune cells compensate or adjust to body mass in small vs. large mammalian hosts.” The scientists involved will also “develop museum displays for a local museum of science and technology in Syracuse, NY, that collaborates in educational activities for every 8th-grader in the diverse Syracuse City school district,

¹ ipmnewsroom.org/instead-of-ending-dei-university-of-illinois-will-add-open-to-all-language-to-websites/

² insidehighered.com/news/2022/04/01/u-illinois-require-diversity-statements-tenure

³ usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_2342511_049

exposing students from groups underrepresented in STEM to science at a critical age. The team will also teach local middle-school students to use microscopes in scientific inquiry.”

- **\$400,000**¹ for an engineering project on “molecular rheology of architecturally complex polymers.” Along with research, “educational outreach will be incorporated by working with the Illinois iRise program, which actively engages local K-12 high school science teachers in the Urbana-Champaign area to develop experimental labs for the classroom, and mentors middle and high school students from underrepresented groups.” Notably, the iRise program is an in-house community outreach project within the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign, created² in 2011 through National Science Foundation funds shortly after the passage of the 2010 America COMPETES Reauthorization Act.

DECADE IN REVIEW:

The University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign saw a **324% increase in DEI salary spending and 139% increase in DEI staffers**. DEI staff growth outpaced total staff increases, which saw a 16% growth, and non-teaching staff, which saw an 18% growth. Professors, lecturers, and instructors saw a 13% increase.

YEAR	SALARIES	STAFF	PROFESSORS/ LECTURERS	NON-TEACHING STAFF	DEI HEADCOUNT	DEI SALARIES
2013	\$488,539,642	12,557	3,496	9,061	51	\$2,778,102
2015	\$506,314,075	12,837	3,635	9,202	54	\$2,863,254
2017	\$516,078,344	12,919	3,593	9,326	59	\$3,407,046
2019	\$543,548,383	13,380	3,701	9,679	69	\$4,311,071
2021	\$545,716,601	13,275	3,596	9,679	93	\$7,174,955
2024	\$615,954,071	14,585	3,934	10,651	122	\$11,768,015
PERCENT CHANGE, 2013-2024	57%	16%	13%	18%	139%	324%

¹ usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_1254340_049

² istem.illinois.edu/news/irise.html

University of Virginia



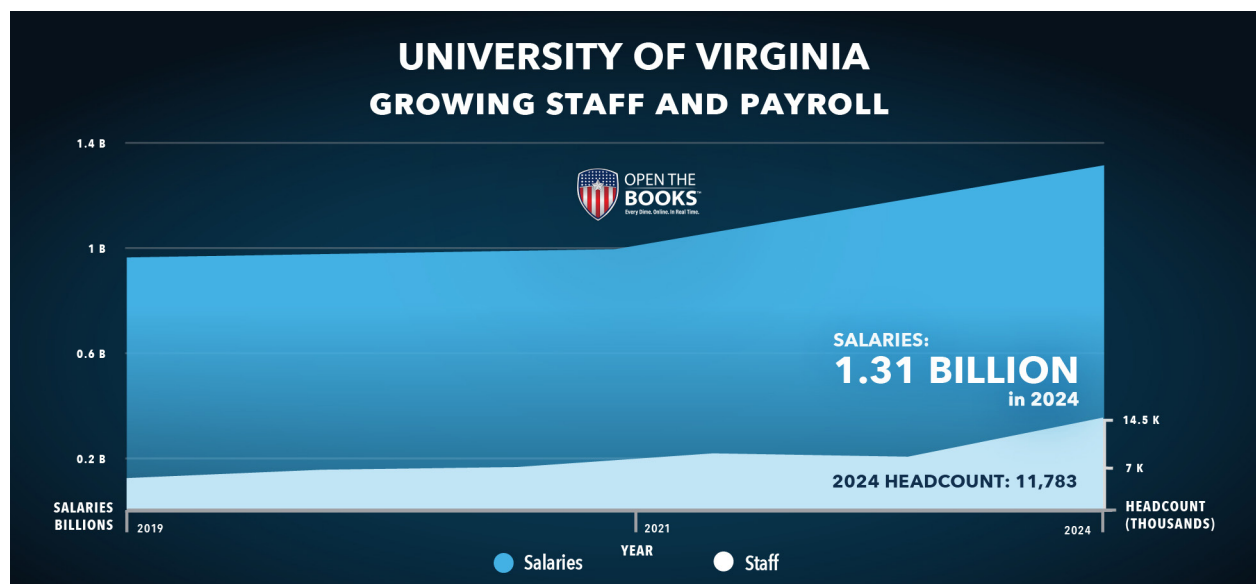
University of Virginia only gave Open the Books salary data for the years 2019, 2021, and 2024, although we asked for data from 2013, 2015, and 2017 as well. It is unclear why we did not receive the complete data that we asked for, but lack of transparency prevents the public from understanding historic trends in spending and staffing.

Additionally, UVA was selected for this report because they had previously provided salary spending databases that included both departments and titles when Open the Books investigated¹ the university in 2024. Having staff salary data that includes departmental information is essential for counting DEI-related positions. This time, UVA only provided titles with no department connection. Therefore, Open the Books cannot include DEI-related staffing as part of this analysis.

From 2019-2023 UVA received **\$1.5 billion** in federal R&D grants, or about **\$300 million per year**. Grants came mostly from the Department of Health and Human Services (\$1 billion). The Department of Defense (now referred to as the Department of War) and the National Science Foundation followed with about \$180 million each.

Because there is no public dataset with all overhead rates, the public relies on universities to post the rates themselves. UVA, unlike many universities, does not post their overhead rate on their website.

Total university staff increased by about 2,000 over the five years of available data: from 9,799 in 2019 to 11,783 in 2024. Salary spending likewise grew from \$966 million in 2019 and \$1.3 billion in 2024.



1 openthebooks.com/235-dei-employees-cost-taxpayers-20-million/

Of the new hires since 2019, 459 had the title “professor,” “lecturer,” or “instructor.” That is less than a quarter of the total number of staff added.

Because the data was unexpectedly incomplete, we cannot see how DEI staff numbers changed over time. Previous Open the Books reporting¹ shows that in 2023 the University of Virginia spent an estimated \$20 million annually on 235 part-time and full-time employees with DEI-related roles. **That amount is roughly equivalent to 1,000 first-year student tuition payments.**

This count includes staff identified in 2023 UVA-provided payroll records who work for the Office for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Office of Diversity & Engagement, Center for Diversity, Equity Center and Multicultural Student Services, among others.

Since then, the university has undergone major changes in its DEI infrastructure. In March 2025 the UVA Board of Visitors voted² to dismantle its DEI office and eliminate all DEI programs and roles. An equity plan was also scrapped, which included targets for the racial makeup of staff. The Trump Department of Justice pressured the university for proof that it had truly undertaken those reforms and was not just hiding DEI programs under new names.

But, as demonstrated throughout this report, the federal government in previous administrations has had a hand in encouraging the growth of DEI infrastructure at universities, and UVA is no exception. A look through UVA’s recent NSF grants illustrates how DEI became embedded in research funding, even within projects that are totally unrelated to DEI topics:

- **\$265,1613 for a chemical engineering project for “optimizing interfacial electrokinetics”** that also funds “STEM outreach programs to K-12 students from diverse groups and low-income families through hands-on demonstrations” and recruits “undergraduate summer interns from underrepresented minority groups...to work on this project.”
- **\$239,0934 for an astronomy project on studying supernovae that also will work “to increase the number of members of underrepresented groups in STEM...[T]he lead investigators will collaborate with two different programs** (one, Girls Exploring the Universe, a summer program for middle school girls in Virginia, and the other at a high school in East Lansing, MI) to involve their students in different research projects.”

¹ openthebooks.substack.com/p/university-of-virginia-spends-20

² chronicle.com/article/how-uva-alums-put-dei-and-a-president-in-the-justice-dept-s-crosshairs

³ usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_2332802_049

⁴ usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_2206657_049

CONCLUSIONS

The Trump administration has attempted to slash overhead rates to 15% in an effort to rein in wasteful spending and administrative bloat at university grantees.

Proponents of this reform argue that refocusing universities on their core scientific and research mission will promote our long-term economic and national security. In response, coalitions of higher education institutions filed suit against the administration and moved to block these fee reductions. At the time of publication, rate reductions remain blocked.

Campus administrators and DEI-related staff proliferated as billions of dollars in overhead funding was pumped into universities, often with “broader impacts” strings attached that sometimes even used direct funds to expand university administration and embed DEI ideology and staff into more programs.

So far, the Trump administration has eliminated the identity-based “broadening participation in STEM” option for grant proposals, but the entire concept of “broader impacts” must be revisited.

The concept of recruiting future scientists through taxpayer-funded outreach might have made members of Congress feel good in 2010, but incentivizing these activities through federal grant requirements at National Science Foundation is a secret tax on research and development. It distracts scientists from discovery as they develop public outreach campaigns. That alone should be sufficient cause for their removal; that those programs also often exclude participants based on race, sex, or sexuality only bolster the argument for repeal.

Congress can step in by demanding real-time transparency of all federal tax dollars and by repealing all “broader impacts” requirements in the 2010 America COMPETES Reauthorization Act. NSF can return to its original mission of funding foundational science. If Congress still finds it necessary to conduct outreach for K-12 scientific recruitment, a separate program can be developed that does not directly cut into funds meant for R&D.

Notably, even though the Trump administration has forbidden identity-based programmatic activity in NSF grants, several grants awarded since May 2025 have race-based outreach components:

- **\$422,247 for a collaborative project between the University of Texas at El Paso and Baylor College of Medicine on nanomaterials.** Beyond doing R&D, “An educational development plan in nanoscience will be developed by the research team to promote training, education and learning opportunities...with a focus on underrepresented students. In addition, high school students and

teachers working together with graduates and undergraduates will acquire knowledge of nanoscience and its application to medical implants from the viewpoint of improvements in the quality of life.”

- **\$163,595 to Barnard College to study “genetic tools available in fruit flies to elucidate novel mechanisms for how glia and neurons interact to enable animals to survive and thrive in fluctuating environments.”** The project will also “be integrated with inclusive educational practices, including experiments completed by undergraduate students in the [Principal Investigator’s] Neurobiology Lab Course, and participation in a research based mentoring program for first year undergraduates from historically underrepresented groups in STEM. This project will also develop a Science Translators Program, creating resources for non-scientists to learn about socially relevant science research, in languages other than English.”
- **\$151,966 for a chemistry and early career development program at Campbell University that “will study the application of thiamine diphosphate-dependent enzymes toward current challenges in chemical synthesis.”** The project will also promote “the retention of diverse talent in STEM through a program that incorporates research and mentoring opportunities for underrepresented students in STEM, along with integration of the project into a course-based undergraduate research experience.”

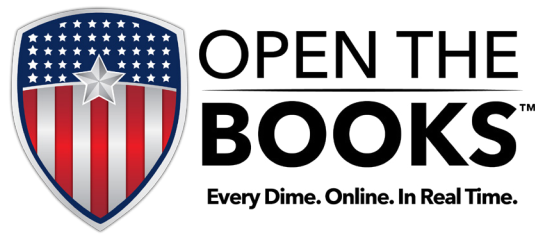
Hijacking grant proposal requirements to further ideological goals is hardly limited to NSF. A 2024 paper, “Politicizing science funding undermines public trust in science, academic freedom, and the unbiased generation of knowledge¹,” details similar issues at HHS, the Department of Energy, NASA, and the Department of Defense (now the Department of War). All should be investigated and reformed.

Reducing overhead funding across the board remains an essential tool to refocus American R&D funding on scientific discovery and cut off administrative bloat. The Trump administration’s early action to that end is a welcome defense of science. Congress too must step up and make these changes enduring.



¹ pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11304623/

ABOUT AMERICAN TRANSPARENCY



AS FEATURED IN:

C-SPAN *Chicago Tribune* *The New York Times*

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IN 2023 AND 2024...

Quantified the federal bureaucracy and the waste, fraud and abuse that followed Covid lockdowns. We also exposed the radical DEI ideology that had permeated the Department of Defense, National Science Foundation and the EPA.

IN 2021 AND 2022...

Identified Dr. Anthony Fauci as the top paid federal employee, quantified the staggering cost of U.S. military gear left behind in Afghanistan, cracked open California's state checkbook and Big Pharma's \$1.4 billion in third-party paid royalties—leading to four televised congressional hearings in 2022.

IN 2020...

The President's Budget To Congress FY 2021 included a first-ever chapter, "Stopping Wasteful and Unnecessary Spending," which was inspired by our oversight report, *Where's The Pork? A Study of \$600 Billion In Federal Grants*. Included in the President's Budget was our report, *Use-It-Or-Lose-It - How The Federal Government Spent \$97 Billion In September 2018*.

IN 2019...

Our Top 82 U.S. Non-Profit Hospitals: Quantifying Government Payments & Financial Assets report launched on *FOX News' Tucker Carlson Tonight* and *USA TODAY*. This report backstopped President Trump's two executive orders on healthcare price transparency by showing that wealthy charitable non-profit healthcare providers and their CEO's were making big profits. Colorado Governor Jared Polis (D) also cited this data in his state of the state address while arguing for price reforms.

IN 2018...

Open The Books' Mapping The Swamp, A Study Of The Administrative State Media report launched on *FOX News' The Ingraham Angle* and directly led to Representative Judy Hice's (R-GA) legislation on pension and bonus transparency (H.R. 2612). Furthermore, we briefed the Executive Office of the President, Office of Management & Budget regarding our policy ideas to drain the swamp.

IN 2017...

The Tax Cuts And Jobs Act 2017, passed into law and included a claw-back tax on Ivy League-style, excessive university endowments. The *Boston Globe* cited our Ivy League, Inc. oversight report as a catalyst for the legislative provision. Coverage included *The Wall Street Journal* and eight segments on *Fox New*

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Public Policy Editor



Amber Todoroff

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Jeremy Portnoy

Investigative
Journalist

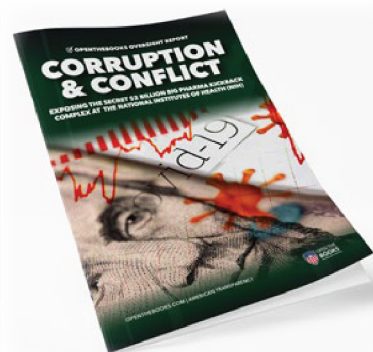


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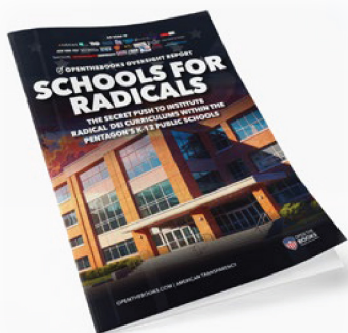
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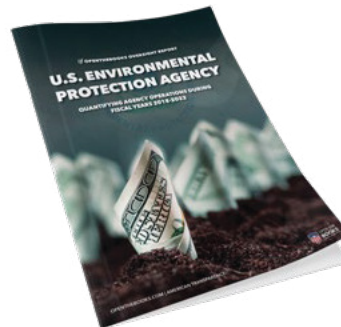
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