

Additional Effort Reporting Guidance
(Adapted from Guidance Prepared for School of Medicine faculty)

Based on the questions asked most often, the following guide is provided to assist faculty in making reasonable estimates for their effort reporting.

1. May I still confer with my department administrators?

Yes, you are encouraged to continue reviewing your effort with your department administrator and Chair. What has changed is that you, not your administrator, are responsible for and must submit the final effort certification.

2. Am I expected to make an exact calculation of my effort?

It is not expected that you will be able to make an exact calculation; rather, you should make your best reasonable estimate of the average effort provided to each activity where you devote 1% or more of your time under your Hopkins employment. It is most important that you allocate a reasonable % of effort to each activity you performed. It is understood that many of your activities are of a mixed purpose making it difficult to separate them into the reportable categories of employed effort. It is the intent of this guide to help you make such reasonable estimates by the approaches described below

3. How do I determine what is my total employed time?

Your total employed time is the average total time (hours) that you devote to research, teaching, and administrative activities for Johns Hopkins.

Total employed time includes time spent at Hopkins facilities and time spent working on Hopkins responsibilities at home or at other locations. It does include time you spend on your continuing education and reading journals, both of which should be allocated to the employed activity they most support. It does not include the time you devote to non-Hopkins commitments (professional or personal) for which you are a volunteer or receive separate payment. Thus, if you work an average of sixty hours (60 hours) per week on Hopkins activities, your total employed time is 60 hours. If you work another ten (10) hours on outside activities, these ten (10) hours do not count toward total employed time. For example, you may spend an average total of 60 hours on Johns Hopkins activities and an average total 10 hours a week on Heart Association, court appearances for individual expert advice, study section reviews and professional journal editing activities. Your reportable effort for Johns Hopkins would be only 60 hours, not 70 hours. In all cases, you should be prepared to document your certified effort estimates as reasonable based upon your calendar, teaching schedules, and work records.

Note: You must report all your activities, including non-Johns Hopkins activities on your annual Conflict of Interest form (see attached ER 4)

4. What time period is used to measure effort?

Faculty effort reports are filed at the end of each six-month period, i.e., each 26-week period. Your percentage of effort for various activities should be averaged over the six-month period. If your schedule does not vary significantly on a week-to-week basis, you may look at an average week to express effort. If your schedule varies significantly from week to week, you may need to average your effort over a longer period.

5. My schedule varies a lot over a six-month period. One month may all be research and the next month may be a mixture of research and teaching. Could you give me an example of how someone like me might report effort?

Because the reporting period is 26 weeks, if you work an average of 60 hours a week on Hopkins activities, your denominator for the reporting period would be 1,560 hours (60 hrs. x 26 weeks). If you spent 1,100 hours on a research grant over that period, your effort would be about 70% on the grant. Likewise, if you spent 230 hours on teaching, your effort for this activity would be about 15%. Alternatively, you may estimate your effort for each month or week and then average the results for the six-month reporting period.

6. If I have a consulting contract with a Government Agency or private company, is this “Johns Hopkins activity”?

If you have an individual consulting contract (e.g., with a drug company) where you are paid directly by a party other than Johns Hopkins, this contract is individual effort, not Johns Hopkins employed effort. Where the University enters into an arrangement with a company and you are paid by Johns Hopkins, the arrangement is considered a Johns Hopkins employed activity.

7. How should I manage my effort when I have an NIH K Award?

The sponsored research supported by a K Award is constrained by the scope of the proposal. If additional projects are undertaken that overlap with the K Award scope, you may use the effort supported by the K Award to participate in the other related projects. If however the additional research activity does not overlap with the K Award work scope, the effort provided to the additional research project must be separately accounted for and supported beyond the minimum effort required for the K Award. Usually the K Award precludes eligibility for additional federal salary support except for late stage additional grants allowed by some K Awards. Accordingly the salary support for research that does not overlap with the scope of the K Award usually must come from a non-federal source.

8. What should be reported as instructional effort?

Time spent 1) teaching courses (including preparation time), 2) providing formal mentoring (e.g., time spent in reviewing a mentee's career or dissertation plans), and 3) being the PI on a training grant should be reported as instruction. The extra time it takes to perform research with students in an educational institution should be reported as part of research activities.

9. What is reportable administrative activity?

Time devoted to administrative responsibilities (e.g., being a department Chair, standing committee member, grant proposal preparation etc.) should be separately reported if they amount to 1% or more of total employed time.

10. How should I report time preparing research grant proposal forms?

Time spent preparing competitive research grant proposal forms should be reported as administrative time. This does not include time spent performing preliminary research, or preparing progress reports on already awarded research grants.

11. What should be reported as sponsored effort or sponsored research?

Only the time devoted to awarded grants and contracts or authorized pre-award costs should be reported as sponsored activities (sometimes referred to as sponsored research). Research time that is not supported by or pledged to separately allocated project budgets (e.g., unrestricted institutional funds or gifts) should be included in your instruction/university sponsored activity.