![Office of Research, Innovation, and Economic Impact - George Mason University logo]
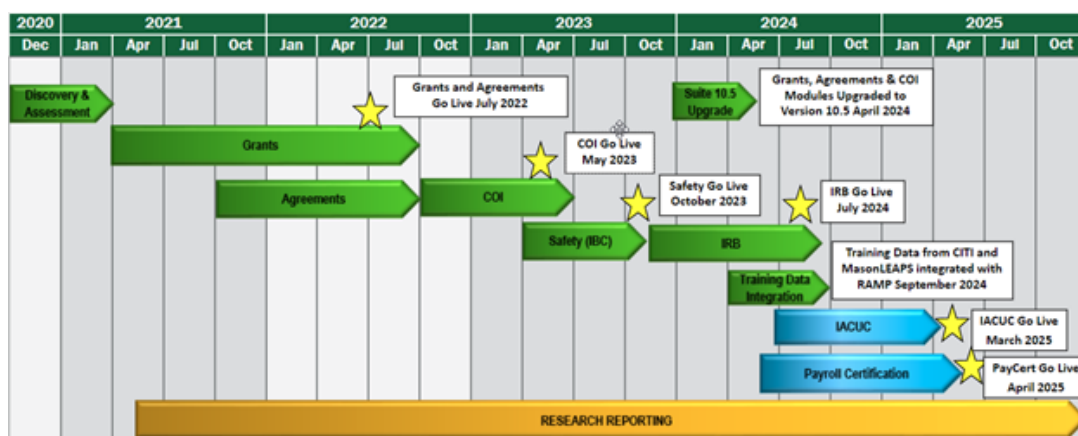
Research Administration Management Portal (RAMP) Update

George Mason University is implementing an integrated research web-based system, **Research Administration Management Portal** or **RAMP**, to support the growing research enterprise. This system will reduce duplication efforts and better support faculty. It also allows for the capture of research-related data in one system, enhancing reporting and data-driven decision-making. In addition, RAMP will help improve compliance with sponsor regulations and requirements through streamlined workflows and an automated reminder system.

Five of the seven modules have already been implemented, and the final two are expected to go live in Spring 2025. Below is the overall RAMP Program Timeline. Visit the RAMP website for additional information.

Federal Research Funding Update

The Trump administration has issued several Executive Orders since January 20, 2025, that represent a shift in federal priorities. The Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) created a [webpage](#) that serves as the central location for updates regarding federal funding during the current

transition period. You can find information regarding George Mason University leadership communications, FAQs, Federal Agency guidance, and other resources related to federal research funding. Please forward agency or project specific notifications you receive to ospaor@gmu.edu. Email questions to research@gmu.edu.

RAMP IACUC Module

The latest RAMP module – RAMP IACUC – will go live Monday, March 24, 2025. George Mason's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) is transitioning to use RAMP IACUC for all protocol submissions rather than IRBNet. All active protocols will be transitioned from IRBNet to RAMP IACUC prior to the go-live. In preparation, there will be a blackout period from March 1 through

March 24 during which no new submissions of any type will be accepted in IRBNet. The IACUC staff will use the blackout period to wrap up any reviews in progress. Beginning March 24, RAMP IACUC will be used for all IACUC submissions and approvals. Investigators who anticipate having protocols or modifications for review at the April IACUC meeting are encouraged to contact the [IACUC staff](#) for additional guidance and support.

RAMP Payroll Certification Module

As a recipient of federally funded sponsored awards, the University is required to ensure that payroll charges to awards represent a reasonable estimate of the work performed on each sponsored project.

The requirements associated with this federal requirement are described in University Policy 4015: Payroll Certification on Federally Sponsored Awards.
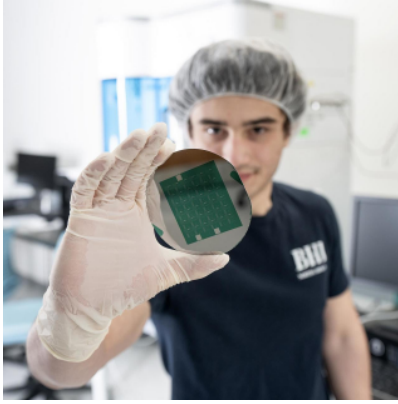
OSP currently compiles this data from the Banner financial system and distributes payroll certification reports monthly via a manual email distribution sent on the annual anniversary date for each federal award. To streamline this process, George Mason is transitioning to the Huron Employee Compensation Compliance Application (ECC) within RAMP for payroll certification in May 2025. This system will allow for easy access to payroll data for principal investigators, research administrators, and academic unit leadership, as well as provide robust reporting capabilities. Payroll certification statements are displayed in an easy-to-read format with full detailed payroll information accessible within the report.

This new RAMP module will reduce the administrative burden for investigators through ease of access to review reports and a simplified single approval step within the system eliminating the need to sign, scan, and return forms through email. System notifications will be sent automatically to alert faculty when a new report is awaiting certification. This initiative will significantly improve efficiency in the payroll certification process and monitoring of payroll charges to sponsored awards.

OSP Training Update

OSP has posted some new, on-demand research administration resource guides related to billing, reporting, and closeout. These new resources are available in MasonLEAPS; the direct link is provided below and is also available on the OSP website.

- Reporting, billing, and closeout includes guides to billing, reporting, and payments; financial reporting; award closeout; and subaward management.

Additional on-demand research administration resource guides related to post award management will be posted in the spring. OSP is creating a new, on-demand Research Administration Certificate Program with plans to have it available in MasonLEAPS by July 2025. More details will be shared as the development of the online program is finalized.

Research Reporting

The Research Reporting project has provided more dynamic and functional reporting with the use of dossiers located in MicroStrategy. A dossier holds various reports for the same dataset and can be identified within MicroStrategy with its blue stacked books icon. Guides for many available research reports can be found under Research Reporting in the Reporting Quick Guides section.

OSP continues to add useful guides to assist users in easier research reporting functionality. The most frequently used dossiers in MicroStrategy are Research Awards, Research Proposals, and Research Expenditures.

In the Research Awards dossier, users can see at-risk, active, and/or closed award amounts within selected colleges/lead units for given time frames. The ability exists to search on specific principal investigators, keywords, and/or programs names. The reports provide detail for each award such as grant, fund, long title, anticipated funding, start and end date of the award, etc. based on the user's selections.

The Research Expenditures dossier provides similar detail and functionality as the awards dossier breaking out expenditures by direct and indirect, as well as total. There is also a Research Awards and Expenditures dossier that combines the awards and expenditures data in one full report along with open commitments and available balances.

Within the Research Proposals dossier, users can select pending, funded, and/or rejected proposals submitted within specific colleges/lead units for given time frames dependent on the submit to sponsor date. The ability exists to also select on specific PIs, sponsors, keywords, and/or program names. The report gives detail for each proposal such as title, lead unit, PI, proposal amount, proposal number, sponsor, etc.

Two additional useful dossiers are the Research Awards by PI/Co-PI and Research Proposals by Role. These dossiers allow colleges to see all proposals or awards their faculty is working on across the university in various roles.

An upcoming enhancement to be added to the dossiers is the ability to filter across both sponsor and prime sponsor for direct and pass-thru awards for a specific agency.
Anyone needing MicroStrategy access should submit the Banner Account Request form to their departmental banner liaison with "Add" for Finance/HR reconciliation under the Data Mart Access section of the form.

In addition, OSP offers MicroStrategy Research Reporting Workshop Sessions to review existing research reports, address any questions or challenges with research reporting, and show tips and tricks. The next session is set for 9 – 10AM on Tuesday, April 1. To see upcoming workshop sessions, find Reporting Quick Guides, or locate research reports within MicroStrategy, visit Research Reporting.

Research Administration Management Portal
RAMP.GMU.EDU