

MVAHCS Research Service
Guidance on Protected Time for
Various Research Activities

November 1, 2021

A successful research career depends on many factors including excellent mentoring, a passion for pursuing research questions, formal training in research methodology, adequate space, access to necessary equipment and special services (e.g., veterinary medical unit, data management, data analysis), a supportive and collaborative environment, and protected time.

For new investigators, VA's national Office of Research & Development recommends 50% protected time and we endorse that recommendation as well as the others listed in the guidance document available at <https://www.research.va.gov/resources/policies/guidance/Guidance-for-Research-Protected-Time.pdf>; current recommendations (dated December 2020) are shown below:

Research – Mapping Allocations Research Activity	Recommended FTEE Allocation	Recommended Hours per week
Principal Investigator (PI) Merit review incl. QUERI	0.380	15.2
Chair on VA Cooperative Studies Program (CSP)	0.500	20.0
Site PI on Merit/VA CSP	0.250	10.0
PI NIH R01	0.380	15.2
PI Industry-sponsored Clinical Study	0.250	10.0
VA Career Development Award (CDA)	0.750	30.0
Major Foundation Awards	0.250	10.0
PI of VA Center of Excellence	0.500	20.0
Mentor of VA CDA	0.060	2.4
New Investigator	0.500	20.0
Chair, Institutional Review Board (IRB) or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)	0.500	20.0
Chair, Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC)/ Subcommittee on Research Safety (SRS) or Research and Development Committee	0.130	5.2
Member, IRB, IACUC	0.130	5.2
Member, IBC/SRS, R&D Committee	0.060	2.4
Other Research duties not covered above approved by COS, i.e., (peer reviewer of manuscripts referred for abstracts, editor of book, monograph, or other publications)	0.025	1.0