**PURPOSE:**
University of Alabama Research Centers and Institutes provide an important organizational structure for conducting interdisciplinary research. This policy outlines the benefits and responsibilities of a University Research Center or Institute and the criteria for designation as such.

**POLICY:**

**Benefits and Responsibilities of Becoming a University Research Center or Institute**

Directors of University Research Centers and Institutes generally report through their respective Deans to the Vice President for Research and Economic Development. There are some exceptions where the Director reports directly to the Vice President for Research and Economic Development. Center and Institute Directors are responsible for maintaining effective administrative and management structures and for developing, implementing, and revising long-range plans and visions. Directors of University Research Centers and Institutes may have a reduced teaching and service commitment in their home department commensurate with the size and complexity of the Centers or Institutes they direct.

**Criteria for University Research Center or Institute Designation**

Only official University of Alabama System recognized Centers and Institutes are considered for designation as Research Centers or Institutes. The most recent UAS Data Summary includes the official list of University of Alabama System recognized Centers and Institutes.

University Research Centers and Institutes are distinguished from other research centers and units on campus and are expected to have:

- An established track record of supporting interdisciplinary research that cuts across at least two schools/colleges within the University;
- A national reputation for excellence, or clear potential to achieve such a reputation;
- An effective administrative and reporting structure; and
- A demonstrated sustainable funding base (as identified in Research Center and Institute Procedures).

University Research Centers and Institutes are required to submit an annual report following the format and instruction found in the Research Center and Institute Procedures.

**Exclusions or Special Circumstances:**

Existing University Research Centers and Institutes will be reviewed periodically to assess their ability to meet criteria as a Center or Institute. If a University Center or Institute no longer meets the criteria for this designation, the Vice President for Research and Economic Development may authorize an appropriate change of status.