

1. The purpose of OMB Circular A-110 is to set forth standards for obtaining consistency and uniformity among Federal agencies in the administration of grants to and agreements with State, Federal, and non-profit organizations. T/F?
2. A PI at UVa has an NIH R01 grant with a subcontract to Va Tech. UVa has approved a Cost Accounting Standards exception for the PI to purchase a computer for data analysis. If UVa has approval to purchase a computer, can Va Tech also buy one?
3. Preparations are underway to award an NSF Cooperative Agreement to a PI at UVa. The PI wants to hire the research associate who will direct his lab now so that the project can “hit the ground running” when the grant is awarded. Can he do that?
4. Does OMB Circular A-110 govern the behavior of a PI?
5. A PI has a grant proposal that includes 10% contributed effort. Is that cost share?
6. A \$200,000 grant has \$10,000 remaining at the end of a 12-month no-cost extension. Can the PI request a second no-cost extension to utilize the remaining funds?
7. Name one of the three ways program income will be used.
8. The Federal Demonstration Partnership imposes strict regulations beyond those outlined in OMB Circular A-110. T/F?
9. A PI’s grant is ending in June; there are funds left to pay for registration and a flight to a related scientific meeting scheduled in October. Can these costs be charged to the grant?
10. How often does equipment acquired with Federal funds have to be inventoried?
11. Who retains title to equipment acquired with Federal funds?
12. What is the difference between a travel reimbursement from State funds vs. Federal grant funds?
13. Grant financial, statistical and supporting documents must be retained for how many years?
14. What is the closeout deadline for final reports?

Answers to Quiz: Circular A-110 October 1, 2008

1. False, it is with institutions of higher education, hospitals, and other non-profit organizations.
2. No, Virginia Tech, as the subcontractor, is a separate entity with its own approved budget.
3. The National Science Foundation and numerous other federal agencies (but not all) allow for Pre-Award Costs for 90 days prior to the start date.
4. No, not directly. The institution's officials sign certifying the institution's compliance with requirements; principal investigator is responsible for all aspects of their project. OMB Circular A-110 establishes uniform administrative requirements for federal grants and agreements from certifications to financial program management to termination and closeout.
5. Yes, if the effort or any other expense is quantifiable and committed to in either the narrative or the budget with the proposal, then it is cost share and must be tracked, recorded, and reported, just as it would if the sponsored had mandated it. If the offered support is NOT quantified in the proposal, it is voluntary uncommitted cost share, which does not require documentation or reporting. (For further information see White House directive on cost share or for the effort reporting requirement reference OMB A-21, section J.8.)
6. No, the PI cannot request any no-cost extension to just to "use up" the remaining funds. HOWEVER, yes, the PI can request a no-cost extension that may be agreed to for a valid reason (usually for a reason beyond the PI's control) and in advance of the end date. Virtually all second extension requests need to be made and approved by the program officer of the sponsor. Where as, some federal agencies allow first no-cost extensions approval to be made within the institution with notice of the action to the sponsor and some do not.
7. Program income must be added to the applied to the project's or program's eligible activities; used to finance the non-Federal share of the project or program; or deducted from total costs in determining Federal share of costs.
8. False, FDP allows recipients more authority to extend, re-budget, etc... under the same regulations, not less.
9. No, the activity is not taking place during the grant period. "Date of completion means the date on which all work under award is completed..."
10. At least every two years.
11. Read the sponsor's terms. Usually the recipients retain the title, though the federal awarding agency may reserve the right to transfer the title to federal government or a named third party. The property title is subject to the conditions of use for the project for as long as needed. Then its use may be for in order of:
 - a. the same agency
 - b. other federally sponsored activities
 - c. non-federal outside use. (User charges will be program income.)Disposal is to result in the highest possible return.
12. Federal funding requires procurement standards of applicable federal statutes and executive orders — including the "Fly America" Act — that pure state funding does not.
13. For federal sponsors the retention is 3 years after the date of the final expenditure or financial report. Note though that: "the rights of access...last as long as records are retained."
14. The federal deadline is 90 calendar days for the final reports.