Agenda

1. Effort Reporting Overview
2. Ecrt Workflow and Basic Information
3. Effort Coordinator: Pre-Review
4. PI/Self-Certifier: Individual Certification
5. PI: Project Certification
6. Effort Coordinator: Post Review (Tasks)
7. Additional Resources (Including Reports)
Effort Reporting Overview
Background: Effort Certification

2 CFR 200 (Uniform Guidance) requires KU to have internal controls in place to ensure time expended on sponsored projects is certified.

KU applies Uniform Guidance requirement to all sponsored projects regardless of the funding source. Therefore, effort must be certified for all individuals who receive salary support from a sponsored project or who expend effort on a sponsored project (even if they do not receive salary support from the sponsor.)
Effort Certification is the primary means of verifying that:

- Effort supported (paid) by the project has been performed as promised, and
- Effort expended in support of a project but not paid by the project (cost sharing) has been performed as promised.
What is Effort?

The portion of time spent on a given professional activity and expressed as a percentage of the total 100% professional activity for which an individual is employed by KU.

- The government recognizes that it is a ‘reasonable estimate.’
- Total effort for an individual must equal 100%.
- Effort is not based on a standard (e.g., 40-hour) work week, instead based on whatever was worked.
- ‘100% Effort’ considers all professional activities related to the individual’s appointment (teaching, research, service.) Effort is expressed as a percentage distribution of total effort, and each percentage must reasonably agree with the actual effort devoted to each activity in relation to the employee’s total effort.
- Effort does not include outside activities (e.g., external consulting, additional pay) or voluntary uncommitted cost share (work done on a project that was not committed to a sponsor.)
Effort Certification at KU

All individuals with effort committed to a sponsored project (both paid with sponsor funding and commit cost share) are required to have a completed effort report and/or project report, per federal regulations and university policy.

KU uses ecrt to ensure all certifications can be completed electronically. Additionally, ecrt allows for us to report on and store certifications.

Benefits of ecrt

- Login with KU Online ID anywhere you have internet access
- Ecrt will indicate any report that needs the certifiers review and approval
New HYBRID Model

Effective for the reporting period beginning 6.16.19 (FY20) KU will be moving to a hybrid model for effort reporting.

Ecrt will now in have two types of effort certification. The first being an ‘individual effort statement’, which will be how faculty/staff certify 100% of their time during a reporting period. The second being what we will refer to as a ‘project statement’, which will be used to certify effort expended by our graduate students and temp (UPS/USS) staff.

This hybrid model is being implemented to help our researchers by eliminating the need for PIs to certify non-sponsored funds for graduate students and certain temporary employees. Additionally, it is our hope that the project statements will make it clearer to PIs what effort has been expended on individual projects during a given reporting period.
Who Certifies?

Effort reports must be certified by the employee that performed the work or the award/project PI for graduate students and temp (UPS/USS) staff.

PIs are responsible for Certifying their own effort and the effort of graduate students and temp (UPS/USS) staff on their project, as well as ensuring that the faculty and staff on their awards have certified during the certification period.

Faculty and Staff will be required to certify effort for themselves as well as any graduate students and temps employees for which they are responsible for twice annually. Certification periods will be 60 calendar days long.
What is Recertification?

With our implementation of eCrt in 2016 we were able to address a gap in our previous methods of certifying effort by utilizing what is called recertification.

Rectification is required when a previously certified effort report/project statement is changed by a Retroactive Fund Adjustment (RFA), if the RFA is over our tolerance threshold of 5% change (and $100) per line.

Certifiers will have 30 calendar days from the time that the effort report/project statement is reopened by the Effort Coordinator to recertify effort.
The Office of Research reserves the right to impose the following for those who fail to comply with effort certification policy:

• Failure to certify in the 60-day effort certification period or recertify during the 30-day recertification period can result in
  • Pre-Award not submitting proposals for those who have not certified
  • Post Award not setting up awards (NCEs, continuations, etc.) for those that have not certified
• Emails will be sent to remind certifiers that they have outstanding effort reports/project statements during the certification period
• Effort Coordinators and the KU Office of Research will be monitoring certification and will reach out to those who are at risk of noncompliance
Effort Certification Responsibilities for Faculty and Staff

- Understand federal requirements related to effort
- Certify effort statements to accurately reflect effort during the effort reporting period
- Review, initiate correction if necessary, and electronically certify their individual effort certifications
- Communicate significant effort changes (over 5% and more than $100) to their effort coordinator(s)
- Recertify, if effort changes (over 5% and more than $100) are made after a statement has been certified
- On Federal project, obtain prior approval if disengaged from the project for more than three consecutive months, or effort is reduced more than 25% from the budgeted awarded plan
Additional Effort Certification
Responsibilities for PIs

- Certify project statements to accurately reflect the work of graduate students and temp (UPS/USS) staff during the effort reporting period
- Ensure other faculty and staff appointed to their sponsored projects certify within the (re)certification period(s)
Effort Certification Responsibilities for Effort Coordinators

- Understand federal requirements related to effort
- Monitor effort commitments, salary charges, and cost sharing on all applicable awards
- Follow up with faculty, staff, and payroll coordinators to make adjustments as necessary
- Communicate to the Office of Research any changes that require sponsor notification and/or approval
- Review salary charges with faculty and staff, and post any salary distribution updates and/or corrections in a timely manner
- Check effort certification for accuracy during the pre-review period
- Monitor that effort certification are completed within 60 calendar days after release to the certifier and recertifications are completed within 30 calendar days after release to the certifier
Additional Effort Certification Responsibilities for Coordinators

**Primary Effort Coordinator**
- Each HR department is assigned a single primary effort coordinator, this employee will receive the tasks for the HR department
- Leave notes in the effort reports within the HR department
- Update the certified effort to correctly reflect the effort expended during the reporting period

**Effort Coordinator**
- Assigned to specific HR departments
- Leave notes in the effort report within the HR department
- Update the certified effort to correctly reflect the effort expended during the reporting period
Effort Certification Responsibilities for Office of Research

• Answer questions from Effort Coordinators and Certifiers
• Develop and implement effort reporting policies and procedures
• Develop educational programs for all employees involved in the effort certification processes
• Ensure that the effort system produces accurate effort statements and project statements in a timely manner
• Monitor system to ensure compliance
• Monitor the effort process for timely submission and report findings to departments
ecrt Workflow and Basic Information
ecrt System Overview

- PeopleSoft Payroll Data
- PeopleSoft People Data
- FITC Project Data
- FITC Sponsor Data

ecrt®

Management and Other Reports

Effort Certification Form
ecrt Process Overview

Period of Performance

- Daily Payroll and RFAs
- Daily Payroll and RFAs
- Daily Payroll and RFAs

Effort/Project Statement

Two Weeks to consume any late payroll

Start of Reporting Period

End of Reporting Period

28 days

Pre-Review Open

Certification Period Open

60 days

30 day notice

15 day notice

5 day notice

System generated emails
System navigation

Use the following URL to navigate to the ecrt

https://ecrt.ku.edu

Use your KU Username and password to sign into the system
The **Home Page** serves as an entry point to all the system functions and provides links to a variety of resources to assist users with effort reporting.

The home page present the Effort Coordinator with up to 4 tabs of information, depending on their access.
The **Statements Awaiting Certification** tab contains individual and project statements that the Effort Coordinator is responsible for certifying.

As an Effort Coordinator, you will only be able to certify YOUR OWN effort statement (if applicable). IF you do not have an effort statement, this list will be empty.
The **Associated Certifier** tab displays any statement related to the logged on Effort Coordinator that is in a Not Certified status.

This page will also be utilized during pre-review to display any statements associated to the logged on Effort Coordinator that is Ready for Pre Review.
Assigned Project Statements Tab

Welcome to the ecrt effort reporting system Home Page. The tabs below list all of the effort certification tasks that require your attention - whether it is certifying statements, processing statements, or following up on outstanding statements. To view and resolve the specific task, select the link in the task description.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Principal Investigator</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
<th>Subactivity Title</th>
<th>Account Number</th>
<th>Sponsor Name</th>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Design of oligoulsine-b...</td>
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<td>2112300-905-1000530</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1001197</td>
<td>2112300-905-1001197</td>
<td>ASPERA CHEMICAL...</td>
<td>Staff 5.16...</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jackson, Timothy A</td>
<td>FED0075529-Mechanist...</td>
<td>FED0075529</td>
<td>2112300-905-FED0075</td>
<td>US DEPARTMENT...</td>
<td>Staff 5.16...</td>
<td>Ready for Pre Review</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The **Assigned Project Statements** tab displays any project statement related to the logged on Effort Coordinator that is in a Not Certified status.

This page will also be utilized during pre-review to display any project statements associated to the logged on Effort Coordinator that is Ready for Pre Review.
The Menu Bar towards the top of the page contains links to other pages in the system to which the Effort Coordinator has access.

This Menu Bar can be accessed from any page in the system.

*In the resource section of this presentation you will find a table defining the purpose of menu selections available to you.*
Most screens contain a help icon available in the upper right portion of the page.

Clicking this button will bring up a separate window containing help on the system. This is a general help guide, if the Effort Coordinator has specific KU process question, contact the Central Administrator at ecrt@ku.edu
The Effort Coordinator can search for an employee, account or department. If an item searched for has multiple results, the lookup page will automatically open to display all possible results from which the employee can pick.

Additionally, you can navigate directly to the Lookup page using the Navigation bar Manage / Look Up
ecrt Process Flow - Certification

ecrt Certification Workflow

Certifier Reviews Effort Card

- Is Computed Effort Accurate?
  - YES: Check all boxes and click certify button
  - NO: Certifier should update the Effort Card to reflect the appropriate effort

- Check all boxes and click certify button

- Threshold?
  - Under Threshold: Effort Coordinator Receives a Task & Reviews Card
  - Over Threshold: Effort Coordinator Receives a Task & Reviews Card

- Effort Coordinator initiates an RFA

- RPA Processed in PeopleSoft

- Statement is certified and processed
ecrt Recertification Workflow

- RFA is processed in PeopleSoft
  - Data is fed from HR/Pay directly to ecrt
  - Threshold?
    - Under Threshold: Statement remains certified and processed (no further action needed)
    - Over Threshold:
      - A new task will be created for the Effort Coordinator
      - The effort card will reopen for certifier
      - Certifier will need to recertify - refer to Certification workflow
Effort Coordinator:
Pre-Review
What is Pre-Review?

With our upgrade to ecrt version six, we have decided to formalize the pre-review period. This means that effort coordinators will need to move statements from the status of ‘Ready for Pre-Review’ to ‘Pre-Reviewed’ prior to the statement being available to the certifiers in the certification period.

- This change will ensure that all statements are reviewed prior to being seen by the certifier.
  - This affords Effort Coordinators the opportunity to update the effort statement/project statements to reflect any RFAs that are already in process or that after your review you deem, as necessary. This saves our certifiers the need to potentially certify multiple times.

- Employees will no longer see building statements in ecrt. You can confirm what an employee’s building effort looks like using the PAAG report in OAC.
Additional Pre-Review Details

An additional benefit of moving to a formalized pre-review, is how you will now access statements requiring your review. Instead of having to utilize the department dashboard to find statements that may require pre-review, the statements will not instead be listed on your home page, under the Associated Certifiers and Assigned Project Statements tabs.
An individual’s certification page is made up of 3 windows. The top left window is the **Work List** - this will list the name of any individual who the Certifier is responsible for certifying apart from any project statements.
The top right window populates with information specific to that individual.

In addition to some basic information on the individual, you can see any statements needing certification, ready for pre-review, pre-reviewed, and historical (previously certified/auto approved).
The system will automatically display the most recent open statement of the individual. Note: With ecrt v6 we have chosen to take effort reporting to the whole number number.
As an Effort Coordinator you can add notes that might be useful to the Certifier during your review of the statement. To add a note; click on the Notes icon at the bottom of the statement. After the Effort Coordinator enters text and clicks Save Note, the note can be viewed by expanding the Notes section.
If during Pre-review you identify that an RFA is either in process or needed you should update the effort statement so that it reflects how effort will look once the RFA is processed.

Change the effort % in the certified effort column and hit save.
Adding a Chart String

If during Pre-review you identify that an RFA is either in process or needed to add the individual to a source of funding that isn’t currently listed, Effort Coordinators can add a ‘new’ chart string by selecting the Add Chart String link. Enter the chart string*, click submit, and the page will refresh. The individual will be able to certify effort on that chart string.

*Note: Effort Coordinators can only add chart strings which belong to departments with which they are associated. If you need to add a chart string and it doesn’t appear for you email ecrt@ku.edu for the chart string to be added by the central admin.
Once you have reviewed the statement and made any known adjustments for pending and/or requested RFAs you will hit the Pre Review button.

NOTE: Statements must be in a Pre Reviewed status prior to the start of the certification period, for certifiers to have access to certify them. Delays in completing the Pre Review will limit the amount of time certifiers have to complete certification.
Once you have hit the Pre Review button the statements status will change to Pre Reviewed.
Similar to the Individual Effort Statement, the Project statement is comprised of 3 parts. The first being the **Work List** – this section will list the project PI of record, as well as other key project information.
Pre-Review: Project Statements, Specific Details

The top right hand corner contains more specific information related to the project.
The bottom section contains details on graduate students and temp (UPS/USS) who have effort on the project for the reporting period.
If during Pre-review you identify that an RFA is either in process or needed you should update the effort statement so that it reflects how effort will look once the RFA is processed.

Change the effort % in the certified effort column and hit save.
Clicking the page icon on the line of a given employee will open a pop up which will display the funding that makes up that individuals 100% effort for the period.

During the pre-review period, Effort Coordinators should confirm the accuracy not only of the effort on a given project but that of the employee as a whole, so that potential RFAs in process can be noted on all effected statements.
Once you have reviewed the statement and made any known adjustments for pending and/or requested RFAs, you will hit the Pre Review button.

NOTE: Statements must be in a Pre Reviewed status prior to the start of the certification period, for certifiers to have access to certify them. Delays in completing the Pre Review will limit the amount of time certifiers have to complete certification.
Hitting the pre-reviewed button will move the Project statements status from ‘Ready for Pre Review” to “Pre Reviewed”. Once this step is completed the project statement will no longer appear in your assigned Project Statement tab.
Self-Certifier: Individual Certification
When a Self-Certifier logs into ecrt they will see under the header “Effort Statements” any statements pending certification.

The certifier should click the hyper link to open the statement(s) pending action.
This will open the effort statement for the certifier. Certifiers should be advised to update the certified effort to match how they expended their time during a given period of time.
Certifiers can check the boxes individually or hit the green star icon to select all. Once at least one line is checked the green certify button will appear. Clicking this button will allow for the certifier to complete the certification process.
Once the certify button is clicked you will get a pop up message – hit OK.

Next the Attestation statement will appear. If the employee believes the effort is accurate they should select I agree. If they want to return to the statement they should select cancel.
If the certifier selects I agree, and no changes to effort over our threshold of tolerance (5% and $100.00) the statement will be moved to “certified, processed” status.
PI: Project Certification
When a PI with graduate and/or Temp (UPS/USS) staff logs in, they will see an additional section labeled “Project Certifications Instructions.”

This section will list any project statements for which the PI is responsible for certifying. Clicking the hyperlink will take them to the project statement.
Similarly to the individual statements, PIs should review the effort of the listed employees and confirm it is in line with how they believe effort was expended during the reporting period.

PIs have the option of approving the statement line by line. Or clicking the green star icon to select all.

All lines of a project statement needs to be checked for the certify box to appear.
Once the certify button is clicked, the attestation statement will pop up.

PIs, have the option to cancel, which will return them to the project statement, or agree which will move the statement into a certified status.
Once the project statement has been certified it will drop from the PIs home page.

Effort Coordinators will also be able to confirm the project has moved into a certified status, via the department dashboard or a search of the project number.
Effort Coordinator:
Post Review
When an task is created it will appear on the Primary Effort Coordinators homepage. There are two types of effort tasks. The first is created when an certify changes effort over the threshold (5% and $100) while certifying. The second kind of task is created when an RFA is posted in the HR system that changes a previously certified statement over threshold, requiring recertification to take place.
Effort Coordinator: Instructions

Effort Tasks - Instructions

Detailed instructions on how to process tasks can be found on the KUCR effort reporting page for effort coordinators. [https://research.ku.edu/effort-coordinator-training](https://research.ku.edu/effort-coordinator-training)
Effort Coordinator:
Additional Resources
Department Dashboard: Summary

The top portion of the people tab of the department dashboard will give you a brief summary of the departments standing.
The bottom portion of the people tab of the department dashboard will give you a listing of all individuals, subdivided in the following four categories: Sponsored, Non-Sponsored, Non-Department, Terminated.

You can expand each of the for subsections and see the status of the listed individuals effort statement(s).
Department Dashboard: Projects

Project Certification Tab

Similar to the People tab you can see the brief summary of the department’s standing.

Additionally bellow you will see a complete list of projects associated with the department and their statement status(es).
The Department Information tab is where you can see all effort coordinators associated with a given department. The employees name highlighted in yellow is the current primary effort coordinator for the department. To change the primary effort coordinator click the pen icon.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People</th>
<th>Project Certifications</th>
<th>Award and Chart String</th>
<th>Department Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Department Basic Information:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name: 2112000 Chemistry</td>
<td>Type: 2112000</td>
<td></td>
<td>Code: 2112000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description: Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Active: Yes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Department Effort Coordinator(s)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benfield, Elizabeth Rose Knapik -</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:bknapik@ku.edu">bknapik@ku.edu</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yu, Rensi</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:yurensi@ku.edu">yurensi@ku.edu</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Department Information tab is where you can see all effort coordinators associated with a given department. The employees name highlighted in yellow is the current primary effort coordinator for the department. To change the primary effort coordinator click the pen icon.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Sub-Selection</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certify</td>
<td>My Effort Statements</td>
<td>Displays the effort statement page for the individual logged in system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certify</td>
<td>Project Statements</td>
<td>Displays the project statement page for the individual logged into the system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manage</td>
<td>Look Up</td>
<td>Allows the user to search for a person, project or department within ecrt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manage</td>
<td>Department Dashboard</td>
<td>Displays the department details including all the associated individuals and accounts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reports</td>
<td>Reporting</td>
<td>Displays the standard reports menu, allowing the running or exporting of built reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Links</td>
<td>Uniform Guidance</td>
<td>Link to the Uniform Guidance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Links</td>
<td>NIH Grants Policy &amp; Guidance</td>
<td>Link to NIH Grants &amp; Funding resource page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Links</td>
<td>KU Effort Policy</td>
<td>Link to the KU Resource Page for Effort Reporting &amp; ecrt</td>
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# Status Key

## Status Descriptions

| Status                                      | Icon | Status Description                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| In Progress for Certification              | 🟢   | This status indicates that a statement is not yet ready for confirmation. This occurs during the Period of Performance, as the statements are building. |
| Ready for Pre Review                       | 🟢   | This status indicates that a statement is ready to Pre Reviewed.                                                                    |
| Pre Reviewed                                | 🟢   | This status indicates that a statement has been Pre Reviewed by an Effort Coordinator.                                                |
| Auto Approved                               | 🟢   | This status is for a statement that are Auto Approved. The system automatically moves statements to this status if they do not include sponsored pay (Direct or Cost Share). |
| Not Certified, Not Processed / Ready for Certification | 🟥   | This status is for a statement that has not yet been (fully) certified.                                                                |
| Certified, Processed                        | 🟢   | This status is for a statement that has been fully certified.                                                                           |
| Certified, Approved, RFA Needed             | 🟢   | This status is for a statement pending an RFA.                                                                                          |

| Status                                      | Icon | Status Description                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Certified, Not Processed                    | 🟢   | This status is for statements pending task processing by the primary effort coordinator.                                                  |
| No Certification Required, Processed        | 🟢   | This status is for statements for which the central office has removed the requirement to certify.                                         |
| No Certification Required, Processed, Payroll Pending | 🟢   | This status is for statements for which the central office has removed the requirement to certify.                                         |
| Not Certified, Not Processed, Re-Opened      | 🟢   | This status is for statements reopened by the central office.                                                                             |
| Not Certified, Not Processed, Re-Opened by Payroll Adjustment Reconciliation | 🟢   | This status is for statements pending recertification due to an RFA transaction.                                                        |
| RFA Pending                                 | 🟢   | There is an RFA task pending approval by the primary effort coordinator.                                                                |
| Multiple Statements, Different Statuses     | 🟢   | An employee has multiple statements, this is typically caused by an employee changing jobs during a reporting period. For example a graduate student becoming a post doc. |
To request access effort coordinator access please complete the following form:

https://inowformsprivate.ku.edu/fs?form=KUCR%20ECRT%20Access%20Request%20Form

Written instructions on how to complete the access form are available, if needed.
Questions?

Contact ecrt@ku.edu