

American Concrete Institute Foundation Policies
Conflict of Interest¹
02/17/23

Conflicts of Interest

All actions taken by the American Concrete Institute Foundation (“ACI Foundation”) and its Councils and any outside application reviewers, including but not limited to the award of scholarships (the term scholarship includes both scholarship and fellowship educational awards) and research funds shall be taken based upon the merits of the applications and not upon personal relationships or relationships that present a conflict of interest (“COI”) or the appearance of COI. To further that objective, ACI Foundation has adopted the following mandatory COI policies.

ACI is a close-knit and small community, and individuals will have countless interactions with other individuals. These interactions may involve teamwork on technical committees, or friendships could exist, but these alone do not constitute a COI unless the reviewer cannot provide an objective opinion.

Scholarship Council (“SC”)

A conflict of interest is defined as when there is a scholarship application where the SC member:

- is a relative of the potential recipient,
- has a current, or is considering a future, business or financial relationship with the potential recipient, or with a family member of the potential recipient or
- is currently employed or enrolled, was previously employed or enrolled within the last 12 months, is being considered for employment, or is serving on governing committees at the institution where the potential recipient is enrolled.

If a conflict of interest exists, the SC member with the conflict shall:

- 1) Recuse himself or herself from the interview with the candidate.

¹ These policy terms were written recognizing the requirements and rules of the Internal Revenue Service, and in consideration of the conflict-of-interest policy of the National Science Foundation.

- 2) Not be eligible to vote for any individual applicant for whom the council member has a conflict.
- 3) Avoid any actions that are intended to influence other SC members to vote in favor of the applicant with whom the SC member has a conflict.

Scholarship Council members that represent Fellowship or Scholarship donors can participate in the collective consensus sorting and selection of the final candidates for all awards (including their own) as they are performing in the capacity of a member of the council.

Such action is not intended to allow the SC member to circumvent any IRS rules or regulations.

Concrete Research Council (“CRC”) and Concrete Innovation Council (“CIC”)

A conflict of interest is defined as when there is a research application (or any other award of funds or payment for services) where the CRC or CIC member or outside application reviewer:

- is a relative of the potential recipient,
- has a current, or is considering a future, business or financial relationship with the submitting organization/institution, potential recipient, or with a family member of the potential recipient, or
- is currently employed or enrolled, was previously employed or enrolled within the last 12 months, is being considered for employment, or is serving on governing committees at the submitting organization/institution.

If a conflict of interest exists, the council member or outside application reviewer with the conflict shall:

- 1) Recuse himself or herself from all deliberations on the proposal being considered for funding or other similar matters including payment for services.
- 2) Not be eligible to vote on that proposal, funding, or payments for services with whom the council member has a conflict.
- 3) Avoid any actions that are intended to influence other council members to vote in favor of the proposal with whom the council member has a conflict.

Disclosure

Immediately upon the recognition of a conflict of interest, the respective Council member having the conflict shall disclose the conflict to the chairperson. In addition, any Council member that discovers a potential conflict of interest involving another member shall promptly disclose it to the chairperson. The chairperson shall decide on the appropriate course of action. In the event of a disagreement, the matter shall be submitted to the respective full Council voting members for a decision by a majority vote of the members in attendance. The final arbitrator of any further disputes shall be the ACI Foundation chairperson. All decisions shall err on the side of recusal to avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest.

You may have a conflict of interest if you have other relationships, such as a close personal friendship, that you think might tend to affect your judgment or be seen as doing so by a reasonable person familiar with the relationship.

ACI Foundation Trustees and ACI Foundation Council and Committee members will annually complete a form disclosing any potential conflicts of interest. Reviewers of applications will complete a Disclosure of COI and Confidentiality Form prior to reviewing applications.

Any violation of the above policy positions shall be grounds for removal of the Council member from the Council and removal of the reviewer from the proposal review process.