THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EXTENSION

Effort Coordinator’s Guide to Certification Practices And Procedures

Version 2.0

March 2012
Acknowledgements

In June 2006, the office of Research and Sponsored Programs (RSP) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison convened a project team to assess the institution’s effort management practices, update its effort policies and procedures, and engineer a transition from the Personnel Activity Reporting (PAR) system to a new Web-based system for certifying effort. This document was compiled by the RSP team during the summer and fall of 2007.

Ruth Fruehling is the chief architect and principal author of this Effort Coordinator's Guide. Other members of the RSP team who contributed to the business process improvements, system development, policy development, system testing, and the communication, writing, and training efforts include:

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The RSP team would like to thank its collaborators from DoIT, UW-Milwaukee, UW-Extension, UW System, Huron Consulting Group, and West Monroe Partners as well as the many research administrators, faculty and academic staff researchers, and campus leadership groups that provided input, guidance, and assistance.
Table of Contents

1. Overview of the Effort Reporting Cycle................................................................................ 5
   1.1. What is Effort Certification? ......................................................................................... 5
   1.2. Why do we care about Effort Certification? ................................................................. 5
   1.3. The Effort cycle ............................................................................................................ 6
2. Key Terms and Concepts ....................................................................................................... 7
3. Campus Policy & Procedures ................................................................................................ 9
   3.1. Whose effort must be certified? .................................................................................... 9
   3.2. Who certifies for whom? .............................................................................................. 9
   3.3. When must effort be certified? ..................................................................................... 9
   3.4. How is effort certified? ............................................................................................... 10
   3.5. Maximum allowed effort on sponsored projects ........................................................ 10
   3.6. Recertification of effort ............................................................................................... 10
   3.7. Salary cost transfers after effort certification .............................................................. 11
4. Roles & Responsibilities ...................................................................................................... 12
   4.1. Overview of UW roles involved in the Effort process ............................................... 12
   4.2. Effort coordinator responsibilities .............................................................................. 14
5. Certification Cycles ............................................................................................................. 16
   5.1. Employee types, certification periods and payroll periods ......................................... 16
   5.2. Certification cycle – an illustration ............................................................................. 19
6. How is ECRT (Effort Certification & Reporting Technology) populated? ......................... 20
   6.1. When is ECRT updated? ............................................................................................. 21
   6.2. Sponsored vs. Non-Sponsored .................................................................................... 22
   6.3. Cost sharing ................................................................................................................ 23
   6.4. Commitments .............................................................................................................. 23
7. Using the ECRT (Effort Certification and Reporting Technology) system ........................ 25
   7.1. Access & supported web browsers ............................................................................. 26
   7.2. How to log on.............................................................................................................. 26
   7.3. Email notification........................................................................................................ 27
   7.4. Welcome page ............................................................................................................. 28
   7.5. Home page ................................................................................................................ 29
       7.5.1. Navigation tips and helpful links .................................................................. 29
       7.5.2. Certification period message ......................................................................... 31
       7.5.3. ECRT help .................................................................................................... 31
   7.6. Viewing an Effort Certification Card ......................................................................... 31
   7.7. Manage Effort Tasks ................................................................................................... 38
   7.8. Manage Department .................................................................................................... 41
   7.9. View The Research Staff of a PI/PD .......................................................................... 46
   7.10. Effort Recertification ................................................................................................. 47
   7.11. Manage Users.............................................................................................................. 48
   7.12. Certify/View My Effort and View My Historical Effort ............................................ 52
   7.13. View Reports .............................................................................................................. 53
8. The year-round duties of an effort coordinator .................................................................... 60
8.1. Responsibilities for ongoing review of certification cards ......................................... 60
8.2. Prior to certification .................................................................................................... 61
8.3. During the certification window ................................................................................. 62
8.4. After certification ........................................................................................................ 64
8.5. Follow-up .................................................................................................................... 67
8.6. Audit responsibilities .................................................................................................. 67
9. When it is necessary to document effort manually .............................................................. 68
  9.1. Faculty members not paid through UW ................................................................. 68
  9.2. Certifier who leaves the UW ................................................................................... 69
10. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) ................................................................................... 71
11. Where to get help ................................................................................................................. 76

Appendices
Appendix A – Salary Codes Included/Excluded from ECRT .................................................. 77
Appendix B – A Decision Guide for the Effort Coordinator .................................................... 79
Appendix C – Effort Status Report ....................................................................................... 80
Appendix D – Report of Transactions Not Posted To ECRT ................................................... 81
Appendix E – Report of Contributed Unpaid Effort/Activity on Sponsored Projects ................. 82
Appendix F – Principal Investigator/Project Director Delegation Request ............................... 83
1. Overview of the Effort Reporting Cycle

1.1. What is Effort Certification?

Effort is the time individuals spend on an activity, expressed as a percentage of all the time they spend on UW job duties. UW job duties may include:
- Instruction
- Administration
- Research
- Clinical activity
- Service as a member of a committee or governance body
- Outreach to the community

A sponsored project is activity that is funded by a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under which there is a scope of work, a specific budget, and specified terms and conditions. It requires detailed financial accountability and compliance with the sponsor's terms and conditions.

If an individual works on a sponsored project, they are required to assure the sponsor that:
- They did, in fact, devote effort to the project at a level that corresponds with how they were paid from the project, and
- They've met their commitments to the project, regardless of whether the sponsor provided salary support.

Effort certification is the university's means of providing this assurance to sponsors. To certify effort, faculty and academic staff will review a statement that shows:
- The sources from which they were paid, and
- Cost-shared effort on sponsored projects.

The ECRT (Effort Certification and Reporting Technology) system will be used to certify effort.

1.2. Why do we care about Effort Certification?

Each year, the university receives millions of dollars from organizations, including the federal government, that sponsor research and other UW-Extension activities. As the stewards of those funds, it is our obligation to comply with federal and university requirements to certify faculty and staff effort on sponsored projects. A failure to propose, manage, and certify effort correctly could jeopardize the university's federal funding and lead to penalties for the university.
1.3. The Effort cycle

The Effort Reporting cycle encompasses much more than just the certification of effort. The following diagram identifies what should be considered in this cycle.

- Faculty or professional appointment is established
  - Employment terms are established
  - Institutional Base Salary (IBS) is established
  - Additional compensation is identified

- Commitments are made in the proposal and award documentation
  - Sponsor-funded portion of the effort commitment
  - Mandatory cost sharing
  - Voluntary committed cost sharing
  - NIH Salary Cap considerations

- Salary is paid and effort is expended
  - Determination of appropriate funding sources is made
  - Timely and appropriate changes to funding are made
  - Salary cost transfers are processed when appropriate

- Effort is certified
  - A reasonable estimate is made of how time was spent
  - Effort funded by a sponsor and committed cost sharing is considered
  - Voluntary uncommitted cost sharing is not included in estimate
2. Key Terms and Concepts

Following are key terms and key concepts that will be used throughout this manual. It will be helpful for you to take time to understand these before you begin to use ECRT.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term/Concept</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Period of Performance                             | The semi-annual or quarterly time period for which people are required to certify. During this time:  
  • effort is spent on sponsored projects  
  • payroll and cost sharing amounts are recorded  
  • people, project, payroll and cost sharing data is loaded into ECRT weekly |
| Certification Period (or certification window)    | The 90 day period of time, starting a month after the period of performance, when:  
  • effort coordinators can review reports before certifiers see them  
  • certifiers review and certify their effort  
  • effort coordinators review and process the certifications  
  • effort coordinators resolve and/or explain any differences between certified effort and payroll  
  During the transition to ECRT, the university may alter the duration or starting date of the certification window. |
| Effort Statement                                  | The web page in ECRT on which faculty, academic staff, and PIs/PDs view and certify effort for each period of performance. When certified, the statement becomes an official university document and is subject to audit. In ECRT, the statement is called an effort certification card or effort card. |
| Sponsored Effort vs. Non-Sponsored Effort         | On the effort statement, payroll, cost sharing amounts, and effort are divided into two sections: sponsored and non-sponsored.  
  **Sponsored Effort** includes:  
  • Fund 133 – Non-Federal Grants (except county/partner core funds)  
  • Fund 142 – Hatch Adams - Land Grant Research  
  • Fund 143 – Smith Lever - Land Grant Extension  
  • Fund 144 – Federal Projects  
  **Non-Sponsored Effort** includes all other funding sources. Examples include, but are not limited to: 233 gifts, 101, 104, 128, 130, 135, 136 and 161. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term/Concept</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary Department</td>
<td>An individual is assigned to a primary department within ECRT based on their major department in the Human Resources Appointment system. The primary department determines which Effort Coordinator is responsible for supporting the individual in the effort certification process.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Effort Coordinator</td>
<td>A primary Effort Coordinator is assigned to each department in which individuals are required to certify effort. This person provides the main support for those individuals in the effort certification process and is the only person who can process (finalize) an effort certification card after the individual has certified it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Effort Coordinator</td>
<td>Some departments may assign a secondary Effort Coordinator to assist in supporting those individuals who are required to certify their effort. This person can view information in ECRT, but will not be able to process effort certification cards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Effort vs. Historical Effort</td>
<td>An effort card is <em>completed</em> when the effort has been certified AND the card has been processed by the primary Effort Coordinator. Once the card is completed, it becomes a <strong>Historical Effort</strong> card. Prior to that, it is a <strong>Current Effort</strong> card.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department</td>
<td>The term “department” is used in ECRT to refer to an organizational unit, whether it's a college, school, department, center, or subdepartment. When looking up a department, it is sometimes best to use the UDDS number.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. Campus Policy & Procedures

Following is a brief explanation of policies and procedures that you need to be aware of regarding effort certification. More extensive documentation is available at the following website: http://www.uwex.edu/business-services/extramural/effort-reporting.html.

3.1. Whose effort must be certified?

Effort must be certified for all UW faculty, staff, and graduate students who either:
- Charge part or all of their salary directly to a sponsored project, or
- Expend committed effort on a sponsored project, even though no part of their salary is charged to the project.

3.2. Who certifies for whom?

Effort must be certified by a responsible person with suitable means of verifying that the work was performed. This is a federal requirement. It is never acceptable to circumvent this rule.

The following individuals must certify their own effort:
- Faculty members
- Academic staff members
- Principal investigators/Project directors on a sponsored project

Each Principal Investigator/Project Director certifies the effort for the graduate students and classified staff who work on his or her research/public service projects.

Sometimes the PI/PD doesn't have a suitable means of verifying the effort for all the people who work on a project - and someone else, like a lab manager, does. In such cases, the PI/PD and the effort coordinator can work together to establish a designee's authorization to certify for project staff members.

Sometimes a staff person works on multiple projects for two or more PIs/PDs. In such cases, any one PI/PD with suitable means of verifying all the effort can certify. Or, to collaborate in certifying the staff person's effort, the PIs/PDs can enlist the help of an effort coordinator.

3.3. When must effort be certified?

For classified staff, effort must be certified four times a year. For faculty, graduate students, and all other staff, effort must be certified twice yearly.

Effort is certified for a specific period of performance:
For classified staff, the periods correspond to calendar quarters, based on payroll periods.
For everyone else, the periods are January through June and July through December.

3.4. How is effort certified?

The Web-based Effort Certification and Reporting Technology (ECRT) system is used to certify effort for faculty, staff, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers.

For student hourly workers, the timesheet serves as the mechanism for certifying effort.

ECRT cannot be used to certify the effort for some individuals. Separate procedures are included in this manual for these situations. This includes:
- Faculty and staff with zero-dollar, zero-percent appointments
- Some faculty and academic staff members who have left the university and can no longer log in with a UW-Extension NetID

3.5. Maximum allowed effort on sponsored projects

No one can ever have commitments to sponsored projects that total more than 100%.

Commitments to sponsored projects can add up to a full 100% only if all of an individual’s UW job duties can be allocated to sponsored projects. Faculty members generally have academic or administrative responsibilities in addition to their work on sponsored projects. Consequently, a faculty member's commitments to sponsored projects generally cannot total 100% for any consecutive 12-month period.

It is not against the rules for academic staff, classified staff, graduate students, or postdoctoral researchers to be paid 100% from sponsored projects. There are a number of instances where this is entirely appropriate, given the individual's job duties. However, everyone's allocation of effort to sponsored projects must be reasonable in light of their non-sponsored university activities.

3.6. Recertification of effort

Within the certification window, a request to recertify can be approved by the effort coordinator.

Once the last date of the certification window has passed, a subsequent recertification can call into question the reliability of the certification process. Therefore, an individual’s request must explain why the effort was erroneously certified, and why the requested change is more appropriate within the context of law, federal requirements, or University policies and procedures. The written request will be reviewed by the Director of the Office of Extramural Support. Only in the most compelling of circumstances will it be approved.
3.7. Salary cost transfers after effort certification

Effort reports are designed to confirm that salary charges are in alignment with effort. Therefore, the effort statement is a good tool for identifying allowable transfers of salary charges. When a certified effort statement indicates that a salary distribution from a period being certified was not correct, it may be necessary to initiate a transfer of salary charges from one account to another. In such a case, the transfer is a mechanism for finalizing provisional salary charges to a sponsored project. This kind of transfer to bring salary charges into line with certified effort is an important and appropriate part of sponsored projects administration.

Once effort has been certified and transfers to bring salary charges into line with certified effort are complete, subsequent changes to the salary charges must be carefully scrutinized. Federal officials and institutional administrators, alike, will ask: “If the initial cost distribution was certified by a ‘responsible person using suitable means of verification’, how can a change to that distribution be appropriate?” If it is determined that a cost transfer is acceptable, the circumstances must be clearly documented.

Retroactive adjustments placing salary onto a sponsored agreement are allowed only in keeping with the University’s policy on cost transfers. A request to transfer salary charges off of a sponsored award to an institutional fund (e.g. due to a cost overrun) will rarely require the same level of scrutiny, though repeated cost transfers off of federal awards could be a sign of poor internal controls.

A salary cost transfer after effort certification may give rise to a need for recertification of an effort statement. When this is the case, the criteria for reviewing the salary cost transfer request are consistent with the criteria for reviewing the recertification event.

To minimize the potential need for cost transfers after effort certification, investigators, supported by their department administrators and effort coordinators, should review sponsored project budget statements, payroll expense distribution reports, and effort statements at least monthly.
4. Roles & Responsibilities

Compliance in certifying effort requires involvement at many levels of the university. Following is a list of responsibilities of the various roles needed in the effort certification cycle. The first section identifies the role of the employee (i.e. faculty or academic staff) and the administrative roles that support the effort coordinator in various ways. The second section identifies the role and responsibilities of the effort coordinator. In some divisions each of these roles will be separate individuals. In other divisions two or more roles may be performed by the same person. It is assumed that all parties who perform these roles understand the principles of time and effort reporting and salary allocation.

4.1. Overview of UW roles involved in the Effort process

Principal Investigator/Project Director and Other Certifiers:
- Expend effort on the sponsored project.
- Ensure that all effort expended on the sponsored project is appropriate.
- Ensure that all project staff meet their commitments to the sponsor as documented in the proposal and/or the award agreement.
- Ensure compliance with University Effort Policy.
- Certify direct-charged and committed cost-shared effort on a timely basis.
- Maintain sufficient knowledge of staff effort in order to certify effort for project staff as appropriate.
- When required, obtain prior approval from the sponsor for potential changes in effort levels as outlined in the terms and conditions of the award. (For example, many federal agencies require prior approval for a PI/PD absence from the project for more than 3 consecutive months.)
- Communicate discrepancies to the Effort Coordinator.

Department Grants Administrator:
- Monitor the accuracy of commitment and cost-sharing information.
- Notify OES of any changes in commitments.
- Notify OES of missing or incorrect committed cost-sharing information.
- Work with the PI/PD and department Payroll Coordinator to initiate the payroll and appointment processes and to coordinate payroll-related changes.
- Work with the PI/PD and Effort Coordinator as necessary to ensure that appropriate changes are occurring in a timely fashion.

Department Payroll Administrator:
- Promptly assign salaries to the proper grant funding.
- Promptly process changes to funding streams as needed.
UW-Extension Effort Coordinator’s
Guide to Certification Practices and Procedures

- Promptly process salary cost transfers as necessary as requested by Principal Investigator/Project Director, Department Grants Administrator, and/or Effort Coordinator.

**College/School Research Administrator:**
- Review proposals to ensure that there is no excessive commitment of effort.
- Review the proposed cost-sharing for appropriateness and ensure that an appropriate cost-sharing source is being documented.
- Review the award to ensure that there are no unexpected changes to the effort and cost-sharing commitments.
- Ensure that cost-transfers are fully documented, completed, and routed in a timely fashion.
- Ensure effort cards are submitted timely and implement penalties for non-compliance as needed.

**OES Pre-Award Office Staff Member:**
- Review the appropriateness of cost-sharing during the proposal stage.
- Re-review cost-sharing and commitments for appropriateness and correctness at award setup.
- Compare cost-shared categories of proposal and Notice of Grant Award for consistency, working with campus as appropriate.

**OES Post-Award Office Staff Member:**
- Promptly process salary cost transfers to ensure that complete and accurate payroll data can be loaded into ECRT in a timely manner.
- Verify that all related effort certifications are completed at project close-out.
- Reconcile ECRT and the Grants system to ensure correct cost-sharing information.

**OES Effort Administrator:**
- Develop and implement effort reporting policies and procedures.
- Assist with development of educational programs for all employees involved in the effort certification process.
- Monitor federal agencies and the audit community for policy changes affecting the reporting of effort.
- In conjunction with UW-Madison Lead Effort Administrator, load data into ECRT and monitor the quality of the data and the loading process for accuracy and integrity.
- In conjunction with UW-Madison Lead Effort Administrator, develop and maintain ECRT management reports for use by OES, College/School Research Administrators, department Effort Coordinators and others as needed.
- In conjunction with UW-Madison Lead Effort Administrator, maintain the necessary tables and configurations within ECRT.
- In conjunction with UW-Madison Lead Effort Administrator, ensure that the effort system produces accurate effort cards in a timely manner.
Monitor the effort process for timely submission and provide effort submission reports to College/School Research Administrators.

Review requests for retroactive adjustments to effort cards and, if appropriate, re-open effort reports.

Report questionable practices and recurring problems, depending on their severity, to the department head, Dean, OES management, and/or others as necessary.

When unique situations occur, work with the proper campus offices (i.e. DoIT, Accounting, Dean’s offices, etc.) to resolve any issues.

4.2. Effort coordinator responsibilities

The Effort Coordinators are vital to the effort certification process. Their extensive responsibilities support faculty and academic staff, including:

- understanding the Federal requirements related to effort
- ensuring that administrative tasks are completed appropriately
- monitoring all aspects of effort compliance

The following list is intended to outline the Effort Coordinator’s responsibilities. More details on how to accomplish these responsibilities are covered in later chapters of this manual.

Ongoing:
- Review the effort cards for faculty members and senior/key personnel in ECRT on an ongoing basis, to determine whether the distribution of salary charges and cost sharing is consistent with expectations
- Follow up with faculty, academic staff, and payroll coordinators to make adjustments as necessary

Prior to certification:
- Work with faculty and academic staff members to ensure that the most appropriate person can certify each effort card in ECRT

During the certification window:
- Help faculty and academic staff members interpret and understand their effort cards
  - Log into ECRT to look at the cards before faculty and academic staff members see them
  - Use the notes field on the effort cards to explain potentially confusing info
  - Assist in identifying situations where a researcher expends effort on a project, but there is no payroll or cost sharing data to trigger a line in the sponsored half of the effort card

After certification:
- Process each certified card, applying the evaluation method outlined on the diagram found in Appendix B, and optionally:
  - Work with the department Grants Coordinator to resolve cost sharing issues
  - Return the card to the investigator if something is unclear
Initiate one or more salary cost transfers if needed
• Ensure that inappropriate statements and questions do not persist in the "notes"
• Respond to requests for *retroactive adjustments* to payroll, and/or to the effort card:
  o Prior to the end of the certification window: Reopen a certified effort card for re-certification, in response to a request from an investigator
  o After the end of the certification window: assist the faculty or academic staff member in obtaining approval from the Associate Vice Chancellor for Research Administration in the Office of Extramural Support.
• Maintain documentation (in the notes and otherwise) to support resolution of potential questions from auditors, and respond to questions from auditors if necessary

Follow-up:
• Ensure all effort cards are certified
• Follow up when effort certification is overdue

When questions arise:
• Respond to questions from auditors, if necessary
5. Certification Cycles

5.1. Employee types, certification periods and payroll periods

Effort for faculty, academic staff, and graduate students must be certified on a semiannual basis. Except for the transition to ECRT, the semiannual periods of performance and their corresponding certification windows are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period of Performance</th>
<th>Certification Window</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 1 – June 30</td>
<td>August 1 – October 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 1 – December 31</td>
<td>February 1 – May 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Effort for classified staff must be certified on a quarterly basis. The start and end dates for each quarterly period of performance will vary from year to year, because:
- Each quarterly period of performance contains only whole payroll periods, never portions of a payroll period, and
- Biweekly payroll periods typically do not start on the first day of the month or end on the last day of the month.

The quarterly periods of performance and their corresponding certification windows are as follows for the third and fourth quarter of 2007 and for 2008:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period of Performance</th>
<th>Certification Window</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Third calendar quarter, 2007</td>
<td>November 1 – January 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth calendar quarter, 2007</td>
<td>February 1 – May 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First calendar quarter, 2008</td>
<td>May 1 – July 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second calendar quarter, 2008</td>
<td>August 1 – October 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third calendar quarter, 2008</td>
<td>November 1 – January 30, 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth calendar quarter, 2008</td>
<td>February 1 – May 1, 2009</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For individuals who concurrently hold both a classified appointment and another, non-classified appointment, effort will be certified on a semiannual basis.

Effort for an individual who works on one or more sponsored projects must be certified for each and every period of performance during which the individual charges salary or devotes effort to the project.

The following is a diagram of the certification periods for calendar year 2007 and how each payroll fits into those periods. Summer session payrolls contain multiple employee types. Any salary paid in these payroll periods will be recorded to the appropriate person and included in his/her certification card.
### Annual and Academic Payrolls

#### Payrolls Included

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Certification Period of Calendar Yr 2007</th>
<th>2nd Certification Period of Calendar Yr 2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>January</strong> 01/01/07 - 01/31/07</td>
<td><strong>July</strong> 07/01/07 - 07/31/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>February</strong> 02/01/07 - 02/28/07</td>
<td><strong>August</strong> 08/01/07 - 08/31/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>March</strong> 03/01/07 - 03/31/07</td>
<td><strong>September</strong> 09/01/07 - 09/30/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>April</strong> 04/01/07 - 04/30/07</td>
<td><strong>October</strong> 10/01/07 - 10/31/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>May</strong> 05/01/07 - 05/31/07</td>
<td><strong>November</strong> 11/01/07 - 11/30/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>June</strong> 06/01/07 - 06/30/07</td>
<td><strong>December</strong> 12/01/07 - 12/31/07</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Unclassified A Basis (includes unclass H basis)**

- **January**: 01/01/07 - 01/31/07
- **February**: 02/01/07 - 02/28/07
- **March**: 03/01/07 - 03/31/07
- **April**: 04/01/07 - 04/30/07
- **May**: 05/01/07 - 05/31/07
- **June**: 06/01/07 - 06/30/07

**Unclassified C Basis Summer Service (C Basis changed to S basis in the summer)**

- **January**: 01/01/07 - 01/31/07
- **February**: 02/01/07 - 02/28/07
- **March**: 03/01/07 - 03/31/07
- **April**: 04/01/07 - 04/30/07
- **May**: 05/01/07 - 05/31/07
- **June**: 06/01/07 - 06/30/07

**Summer Session**

- **June**: 06/01/07 - 06/30/07
- **July**: 07/01/07 - 07/31/07
- **August**: 08/01/07 - 08/31/07
- **September**: 09/01/07 - 09/30/07
- **October**: 10/01/07 - 10/31/07
- **November**: 11/01/07 - 11/30/07
- **December**: 12/01/07 - 12/31/07

**Law Sch Summer**

- **June**: 06/01/07 - 06/30/07
- **July**: 07/01/07 - 07/31/07
- **August**: 08/01/07 - 08/31/7
### Classified Payrolls

#### Payrolls Included
**1st Certification Period of Calendar Yr 2007**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Payroll</th>
<th>January</th>
<th>February</th>
<th>March</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>12/24/06 - 01/06/07</td>
<td>01/21/07 - 02/03/07</td>
<td>02/18/07 - 03/03/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>01/07/07 - 01/20/07</td>
<td>02/04/07 - 02/17/07</td>
<td>03/04/07 - 03/17/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>03/18/07 - 03/31/07</td>
<td>03/18/07 - 03/31/07</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

#### Payrolls Included
**2nd Certification Period of Calendar Yr 2007**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Payroll</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>04/01/07 - 04/14/07</td>
<td>04/29/07 - 05/12/07</td>
<td>05/27/07 - 06/09/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>04/15/07 - 04/28/07</td>
<td>05/13/07 - 05/26/07</td>
<td>06/10/07 - 06/23/07</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Payrolls Included
**3rd Certification Period of Calendar Yr 2007**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Payroll</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>August</th>
<th>September</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>06/24/07 - 07/07/07</td>
<td>07/22/07 - 08/04/07</td>
<td>08/19/07 - 09/01/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>07/08/07 - 07/21/07</td>
<td>08/05/07 - 08/18/07</td>
<td>09/02/07 - 09/15/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>09/16/07 - 09/29/07</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Payrolls Included
**4th Certification Period of Calendar Yr 2007**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Payroll</th>
<th>October</th>
<th>November</th>
<th>December</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>09/30/07 - 10/13/07</td>
<td>10/28/07 - 11/10/07</td>
<td>11/25/07 - 12/08/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>10/14/07 - 10/27/07</td>
<td>11/11/07 - 11/24/07</td>
<td>12/09/07 - 12/22/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.2. Certification cycle – an illustration

It is important to understand the various stages of the effort certification cycle. The following example, based on semiannual certification, is intended to help you understand what activity occurs in each stage. For quarterly certifiers, the period of performance is shorter. The duration and timing of some of the stages may be altered during the transition to ECRT.

Period of Performance is 01/01 through 06/30.
- Effort is spent on sponsored projects
- Payroll is recorded and cost sharing is tracked
- People, project, payroll and cost sharing data is loaded into ECRT weekly

The last payroll that applies to the January through June period of performance is posted at the end of July.

Certification period (window) is open 08/01
- Coordinators have two weeks to review reports before certifiers see them
- Salary cost transfers continue to post
- Email notification is sent to certifiers on 08/15
- Certifiers review and certify their effort cards
- Effort coordinators review and process certifications
- Departments initiate salary cost transfers, if necessary, to make payroll consistent with effort
- Effort coordinators resolve and/or explain any differences between certified effort and payroll

Certification period is closed 10/30.
- Effort coordinators follow-up on uncertified reports
- Changes to certified effort reports require appropriate justification and approvals
6. How is ECRT (Effort Certification & Reporting Technology) populated?

ECRT is the web-based system that UW-Extension uses to certify effort and manage the certification process. As the official system of record, effort statements and ECRT transactions are auditable for compliance with federal and University policies.

Section 7 provides detailed instructions in how to use the ECRT software. But, it is also important to understand the data that ECRT uses. The following table explains what is and what is not included in ECRT.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data</th>
<th>What’s Included</th>
<th>What’s Excluded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People</td>
<td>• Every employee who has at least one appointment that is not a student hourly appointment</td>
<td>• Employees with only student-hourly appointments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Non-employees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department(s) for a person</td>
<td>• All departments in which people hold appointments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The primary department is assigned on the basis of information from the UW's human resources information systems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects and Pay Sources</td>
<td>• Every sponsored project from which an individual has been paid during the period of performance, or to which an individual has a cost-sharing commitment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Every non-sponsored pay source from which an individual has been paid during the period of performance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payroll</td>
<td>• All regular payroll transactions posted to the UW’s Shared Financial System except payroll for student hourly appointments and those that have been excluded on the basis of the account code (as outlined in Appendix A)</td>
<td>• Payroll for student hourly appointments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Salary cost transfers that are processed after an effort certification card is completed</td>
<td>• Salary cost transfers that are processed after an effort certification card is completed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Transactions, such as tuition/remission and lump sum payments, that are excluded on the basis of the account code. See</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Data | What’s Included | What’s Excluded
---|---|---
| posted to SFD before the individual’s effort card is certified and processed. | Appendix A for a complete list of included and excluded payroll codes.

Commitment
- A specific and quantified effort percentage as promised in the budget, budget justification, or narrative of a proposal and accepted by the sponsor, regardless of whether salary support is requested

*Note: As of March 2012, UW-Extension does not utilize Commitments.*

Cost Sharing
- Mandatory
- Voluntary Committed
- NSF Institutional (for NSF awards made before July 1, 2007).

- Voluntary Uncommitted

### 6.1. When is ECRT updated?

Data is loaded into ECRT on a weekly basis. Each effort statement shows only the payroll transactions and cost sharing commitments that apply to a single period of performance. If a salary cost transfer occurs after the period of performance, it will be reflected on the effort statement only if the statement *has not yet been processed* by the effort coordinator. Once an effort coordinator has processed the statement, a subsequent salary cost transfer is not reflected on the statement but must still be considered in evaluating whether salary charges are consistent with the individual's actual effort.
Assignment of an Effort Coordinator
An individual's primary department determines which effort coordinator will process the effort card. The primary department is assigned based on the person’s major department in the Human Resource appointment file. The following situations could cause a change to the primary department, and possibly the effort coordinator, in ECRT:

1. If an employee has a new appointment and there is already an existing appointment, the primary department would only change if the new appointment was a faculty appointment.
2. If an employee has a new appointment and the existing appointment ends, the primary department will be updated with the next data load to ECRT.
3. If an employee leaves the university, the primary department will not change for the employee’s last effort certification card.

Linking PIs/PDs to researchers on their projects
PIs/PDs are required to certify for the graduate students and non-PI/PD classified staff who work on their sponsored projects. PIs/PDs are identified with projects in the Grants system and this information is used in ECRT to determine who appears on the PIs/PDs “Certify my Researchers” list. Academic staff are required to certify for themselves; therefore, they will not appear on a PI’s/PD’s list.

6.2. Sponsored vs. Non-Sponsored
The effort certification card shows 100% of an employee’s effort regardless of whether s/he works 20 hours a week, 40 hours a week or 60 hours a week. Payroll expense data is loaded into ECRT and a percentage distribution is calculated and shown on the certification cards. Each payroll funding source is reflected in one of two sections on the card – sponsored or non-sponsored.

Sponsored Effort includes:
- Fund 133 – Non-Federal Grants (Extension core funds, i.e. county agent support and block grants)
- Fund 142 – Hatch Adams - Land Grant Research
- Fund 143 – Smith Lever - Land Grant Extension
- Fund 144 – Federal Projects

Non-Sponsored includes all funding sources that are not included in sponsored.
6.3. Cost sharing

Cost sharing is the portion of the total costs of a sponsored project that is borne by the UW rather than by the sponsor. UW funds used for cost sharing may support all or part of an employee’s effort on a particular project.

Cost sharing amounts are entered and calculated in the Grants system. They are loaded to ECRT on a regular basis. Any new cost sharing commitments or changes to existing commitments must be changed in the Grants system.

There are four types of cost sharing, as listed below. Mandatory, NSF Institutional cost sharing and Voluntary Committed cost sharing **MUST BE INCLUDED** in certified effort. Voluntary Uncommitted cost sharing **SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED** in certified effort.

- **Mandatory** cost sharing is any cost sharing that is required by the sponsor as a condition for proposal submission and award acceptance.

- **NSF Institutional** cost sharing is a form of mandatory cost sharing. The NSF requires institutions to provide an aggregate one percent (1%) cost sharing on unsolicited awards with a start date before July 1, 2007. The cost sharing is not stated in the proposal, nor is it required on a grant-by-grant basis, but it must be met in aggregate on all unsolicited awards.

- **Voluntary Committed** cost sharing is not required by the sponsor as a condition of proposal submission, but once it is offered by the institution and agreed to by the sponsor, this becomes an obligation that the institution must fulfill. Cost sharing that is proposed in the budget or the budget justification becomes a commitment upon execution of the award agreement. When cost sharing proposed in the narrative is specific and quantified, it also becomes a binding commitment upon execution of the award agreement.

- **Voluntary Uncommitted** cost sharing is neither pledged explicitly in the proposal nor stated in the award documents. This typically occurs when an individual expends more effort on a sponsored project than his or her commitment requires. This type of cost sharing, or "extra effort," is above that agreed to as part of the award and is not required to be documented, tracked, or reported.

6.4. Commitments

Committed effort is the amount of effort proposed in a grant proposal or other project application and accepted by the sponsor, regardless of whether salary support is requested for the effort. Committed effort may be adjusted with the approval of the sponsoring agency.
For example, if an NIH grant application proposes that a faculty member will devote 30% of his or her effort to the grant, with salary support for 10% of effort, then the cost sharing is 20% and the effort commitment is 30%.

Commitments are recognized, and effort must be tracked, for the principal investigator/project director, all co-investigators, and all key personnel listed in the grant proposal when the effort is included in the budget or budget justification. In situations in which the proposal does not explicitly list key persons, the University defines key personnel as the principal investigator/project director and all co-investigators on a sponsored project. When effort proposed in the narrative is specific and quantified, it also becomes a binding commitment upon execution of the award agreement.

Commitments are not recognized, and effort need not be tracked, for persons listed as *other significant contributors* on NIH proposals.

Beginning in early 2008, commitments by person and by project will be entered and maintained in the Grants system. Any new commitments or changes to existing commitments must be updated in the Grants system. The updated commitments will load to ECRT on a regular basis.

*(Note: As of March 2012, UW-Extension does not utilize Commitments.)*
7. Using the ECRT (Effort Certification and Reporting Technology) system

ECRT is a role-based system. A user logs in with their UW-Extension Net ID. The options to work within ECRT are determined by the role (or roles) you have been assigned in the system. Some important roles are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role Name</th>
<th>Role Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faculty/PI/PD</td>
<td>Anyone who is assigned to one or more sponsored projects in the Grants system as a Principal Investigator/Project Director (PI/PD) or who has a faculty appointment in the HR Appointment system. This person certifies his or her own effort as well as effort of grad students, post doctoral researchers and non-PI/PD classified staff working on their projects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Staff</td>
<td>Anyone who has an academic staff appointment in the HR Appointment system. If someone has both an academic appointment and a faculty appointment, they are given the role of Faculty/PI/PD. This person certifies his or her own effort.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PI/PD Designee</td>
<td>An individual “with suitable means of verification” who has been designated to certify for researchers on a project in place of the PI/PD.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effort Coordinator</td>
<td>An individual in a department who supports PIs/PDs, faculty and academic staff in certifying their effort; processes effort cards; and ensures that any needed follow-up is completed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dean/Division Level Administrator</td>
<td>An individual within a college/school/division who oversees the effort certification process and provides support for effort coordinators and for faculty and academic staff who certify their effort.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effort Administrator</td>
<td>Extramural Support (OES) staff member who has responsibility to oversee the ECRT system, maintain the tables and configurations, support campus and ensure that ECRT produces accurate effort cards in a timely manner.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each ECRT user has one or more roles. For each role, there is a set of rights that control what a user can see and do. If you have one role, you have the rights that are associated with that role. If you have more than one role, you have all of the rights that are associated with each of your roles.

This chapter describes the ECRT features that are available to individuals who have been assigned the Effort Coordinator role in ECRT.
7.1. Access & supported web browsers

ECRT is a web-based system and can be accessed at the following Web address:

http://ecrt.wisc.edu

The following web browsers are recommended for use with ECRT. Other browsers may be used at your own risk.
- Internet Explorer version 6.0 and higher
- Firefox 1.0 or higher (preferred browser)
- Safari

7.2. How to log on

1. Open a web browser and access ECRT using the following URL: http://ecrt.wisc.edu

2. Select University of Wisconsin-Extension and click on “Select.”
3. Enter your UW-Extension NetID and password. NetID is *firstname.lastname*. If you are not familiar with your password, contact the UW Extension Help Desk at 608-262-5034.

4. Select the checkbox to save your campus and username. If you do this, the next time you go into ECRT you will only need to enter your password.

5. Click the “Login” button

7.3. Email notification

Following each period of performance, it takes approximately a month before the start of the certification period for payroll and cost sharing data to post in ECRT. After the final posting has occurred, a 90 day certification period will open for staff to certify effort and for effort coordinators to process the effort cards and initiate any necessary salary cost transfers. The duration and start date of the certification period may be altered during the transition to ECRT.

Email notifications will be sent out on the following schedule:

1. **At the end of the period of performance** effort coordinators will be notified of the date that the certification period will be open. Once the certification period opens, you will have approximately two weeks to review effort cards before faculty and academic staff are notified to certify effort.

2. **Two weeks after a certification period opens**, an email will notify all employees who are required to certify to log into ECRT and certify their effort. Effort coordinators will also receive a copy of this email.
3. **Approximately 10 days before the certification period ends**, an email will be sent to all employees who have not yet certified, reminding them to log into ECRT and certify their effort. A copy will also be sent to effort coordinators.

4. **At the close of a certification period**, an email will be sent all employees who have not yet certified, with a copy to effort coordinators, to notify them that the certification period has ended and their effort certification is overdue.

After this series of email notifications, additional follow-up will need to be done by the effort coordinator on an individual basis.

Employees or emeritus faculty who do not have payroll, cost sharing, or commitments recorded to a sponsored project will not receive an email, even if they are required to certify. An example would be an employee whose entire salary is paid on 101 funds, is a key person on a sponsored project and is *not* the PI/PD. In this situation, the employee’s time spent on the project would most likely be voluntary committed cost sharing. These employees need to be identified by the PI/PD on the project.

7.4. **Welcome page**

You will see this screen when you initially log into ECRT.

![Welcome Page](attachment:image)

**Welcome to ECRT**

The ECRT (Effort Certification and Reporting Technology) System is an electronic tool that facilitates the University’s effort certification process. When you certify effort, you are providing assurance to sponsors that:

- Salary changes to sponsored projects are reasonable in relation to work performed, and
- Your and/or your project staff have met your commitments to sponsored projects.

Federal and University policies require individuals who work on sponsored projects to certify 100% of their University effort. ECRT is an easy-to-use system that helps you comply with these policies.

Click on the “Continue” button to go to the Home Page
7.5. Home page

There are two ways to navigate to various menu choices within ECRT.

1. Menu choices are shown as labels around the “Effort Lifecycle” diagram. You can navigate to any of the choices by clicking on one of these choices.

2. Menu groups are listed along the top of the page with drop-down lists that show the menu choices. As you navigate throughout ECRT, note that the menu options continue to be available. You may find this useful so that you do not need to return to the home page each time you want to navigate to another option.

Logging out of ECRT
You can logout of ECRT by closing your browser or clicking the Logout menu choice at the top right part of the page.
Looking up a record
When looking up information, many of the pages within ECRT will require you to identify key data such as a person’s name or a department. A “type-ahead” feature is used to allow you to select the information from a list. After you have typed the first three characters/numbers, you will see a list. You can continue to type the characters/numbers after the list loads to refine the list.

If you are looking up the name of a person, type the last name followed by a space (do not use commas) and then the first name. For example: Smith Jane. Once you see the person you are looking for, you can select them and click “submit”.

If you want to look up a department, start typing the 7 digit UDDS number, including ‘A’ for Extension campus. Once you see the department that you are looking for appear on the list, you can select it and click ‘submit’. If you type in the entire 7 digits, you will see only one department in the list. You can then select it or press ‘tab’ to bring that department into the selection field. Click ‘submit’ to navigate to that department.

Department Summary

Links
On the left side of each page of ECRT you will find links to other resources related to effort. They include:

1. **EXT ECRT Help** will provide access to information that is intended to help someone use ECRT more effectively. Examples of what you might find on this page include information from this manual, a quick start guide for certifiers and a link to ECRT “How-To” videos for certifiers.

2. **EXT Effort Reference** will provide access to FAQs, as well as various policy and guidance documentation relating to effort certification requirements.
3. **EXT Add-on Tools** will include reports and queries that have been developed by UW-Madison and or UW-Extension to help you in fulfilling your effort coordinator responsibilities.

### 7.5.2. Certification period message

When a certification period is open, a message box in the top right portion of the Home Page will display the beginning and end dates of the current certification period. The start of the certification period marks the time that effort can be certified. Faculty, academic staff and PIs/PDs can click on the date range to go directly to their current effort card (if that card has not been processed). See section 5 for more information about the certification period.

![Current Certification Period](image)

**09/01/07 thru 10/31/07**

### 7.5.3. ECRT help

As you navigate in ECRT, you can find out more information about the page you are using by clicking the “help” button. Keep in mind that this information is not specific to the University of Wisconsin. You can find options for UW-Extension specific help in sections 7.5.1 and 11 of this manual.

### 7.6. Viewing an Effort Certification Card

An effort statement has two possible states: **current** and **historical**. A historical effort card is one that has been certified and processed. Anything else is a current effort card. Once an effort statement becomes a historical statement, several ECRT features are no longer available when you are viewing the statement. They are:

- Effort Calculator
- Show Dollars
- Effort Card PDF Version
- Ability to add and save a comment
There are three ways to look up someone’s effort card. Each of these menu choices is discussed in more detail later in this chapter. This section is intended to describe the information that you will find on the card. The three ways to access cards are:

1. **Manage Effort Tasks** (see section 7.7) allows you to view current effort cards that have been certified and are assigned to you for processing.

2. **Manage Departments** (see section 7.8) will give you access to current and historical effort cards for anyone who has an appointment in a department for which you are the effort coordinator. In addition, you will be able to view cards for anyone else who has payroll, cost sharing or a commitment on a sponsored project that is associated with your department.

3. **Manage Users** (see section 7.11) gives you access by name and/or person ID to a current effort card. You will have access to effort cards for anyone who has an appointment in a department for which you are the effort coordinator. In addition, you will be able to view cards for anyone else who has payroll, cost sharing or a commitment on a sponsored project that is associated with your department. *However, once an effort card has been certified and processed, you can no longer access it through Manage Users. You must access historical effort cards through Manage Departments.*

Following is an example of the effort card screen, along with a description of the information that you can find on the effort card.
Information about the researcher can be found at the top of the page. The name of the effort coordinator assigned to this person is also listed. This is especially useful if you have someone working on a grant assigned to your department, but they are assigned to an effort coordinator in

### Header Information

Information about the researcher can be found at the top of the page. The name of the effort coordinator assigned to this person is also listed. This is especially useful if you have someone working on a grant assigned to your department, but they are assigned to an effort coordinator in
a different department. You will need to coordinate with this individual on any issues regarding the effort certification card.

If you click on the email address, your default email software should open up a new message window and allow you to send a note to this individual. Keep in mind, however, that this address may not be current. It may be more useful to send a separate email, using the campus directory, which may be more current. Also, keep in mind that not everyone certifies their own effort. For example, if you have a question about an effort certification card for a graduate student, it would be more appropriate to contact the PI/PD.

**View Period**
If you are accessing the card through Manage Effort Tasks or through Manage Users, the drop-down list will include all periods of performance that have not yet been certified and processed.

If you are accessing the card through Manage Departments, the drop down list will contain all cards, including historical cards.

If a certification period has ended and the card has not yet been certified and processed, a reminder message will appear above the dates and both the message and the dates will appear in red.

**Certification Information**
The middle section of the screen provides information that will help the certifier to determine if the appropriate effort is represented.

1. **Project (column 1)** lists the activities associated with this individual. The projects are loaded from payroll, cost sharing or commitment records. Projects are grouped into Sponsored or Non-sponsored categories. Details of the accounting coding for a person’s non-sponsored funding sources can be found in the UW’s Financial System (i.e. WISDM).

   If you click on the project number or project name, you will see a “Project Summary” page that provides more information about the sponsored project, including all employees connected with that project through payroll, cost sharing or a commitment. (See section 7.8 for more information.)

   If commitment information has been entered for a sponsored project, you can view the information by positioning your cursor over the name of the project.
2. **Payroll (column 2)** shows how the individual’s payroll is distributed, by percentage, to his/her various funding sources. Payroll will always total 100%, regardless of what the person’s appointment FTE is or how many hours per week they work. This is consistent with how effort needs to be reported. Section 6 identifies what is included in the payroll amounts. Click on the “Show Dollar Value” link to see the payroll dollars that were used in the calculation.

3. **Cost Share (column 3)** includes all known cost sharing. See section 6.3 for more information. Cost sharing will display as a negative percentage on the line that represents the ‘source” of the cost sharing. The sponsored project(s) receiving the cost sharing will show as a positive percentage. The total of the Cost Share column will always be zero. Click on the “Show Dollar Value” link to see the cost sharing dollars that were used in the calculation.

4. **Computed Effort (column 4)** is a sum of the payroll and the cost sharing percentages. This column will always total 100% and is key to the individual certifying effort. You will need to reconcile any differences between this column and the ‘Certified’ column.

5. **Certified (column 5)** is where the certifier enters the effort for each activity. The certifier must enter a percentage on each line, even if it is zero. The total of the column must equal 100%. The check box next to each percentage line must also be selected before the effort certification can be completed. Normally this box is automatically checked when an amount is entered. Links at the bottom of the page will allow the certifier to check ‘All’ or ‘None”’ of the boxes.

### Effort Calculator

An effort calculator is available to help convert hours of work to percentages or convert percentages to hours of work. This option is available when you access the “Certify Effort” page through Manage Departments or Manage Users. Once the effort card has been certified, this option will no longer be available. To use it, click on the “Effort Calculator” link and then follow the instructions given on the Effort Calculator page.
**UW-Extension Effort Coordinator’s Guide to Certification Practices and Procedures**

**Effort Calculator**

The Effort calculator will help an individual translate the average number of hours they work in a given week to the percentages that could be applied to their certification statement.

The Effort calculator can be used in two different ways. The first way is to enter the number of hours worked per week or per account. To calculate in this manner, press the Calculate Effort by hours circle button. This will allow you to enter hours per each account. After each entry, the percentage and person-months columns will be calculated with a value. You can also use the Calculate button to re-calculate the values.

The second way to enter data on this screen is to select the Calculate Effort by percentage circle button. This activates the percentage column where you can enter the percentage of time for each account. This feature will calculate the hours per week that should have been worked at the entered percentage. This allows the user to confirm that the percentage of time worked on an account matches the number of hours per week worked on that activity.

**Show Dollar Value**

Click on “Show Dollar Value” to show the dollars used to calculate the percentages on the effort card. This information can be useful in understanding what is included on the effort card. It may also assist in reconciling differences between the computed effort and the certified effort. This option is only available until the effort card has been processed by you as the effort coordinator.

Note: If percentages are entered in the “Certified” column, they need to be saved or certified before selecting the “Show Dollar Value” link. Otherwise, they will be cleared out and will need to be re-entered.
Effort Card PDF Version

At the top, right part of the page, you will find an icon that allows you to view and print a PDF version of the effort card prior to certifying and processing a card. This option is only available until the effort card has been processed by you as the effort coordinator. Any percentages or notes entered on the web effort card will NOT be included on the PDF version. This is most useful in procedures to certify effort for someone who has left the university (see section 9.2).

Note: A paper copy of a certified, processed card, can be obtained by running an Effort Audit Report (see section 7.13).

Certification Payroll Report

This icon, found at the top, right part of the page, opens a page that allows you to run a “Certification Payroll Report” that provides the details behind the payroll percentages on the certification card. More information about this report and others can be found in section 7.13.

Note: When you access this report from an individual’s effort card, a second window will open. To close this window use the ‘X’ in the top right corner of the screen. DO NOT use the logout option on the menu bar.

Effort Note Section

Use the text field below to enter an Effort note. (4000 character max.)
At any point until you process an effort card, users can enter a note and click the “Save Effort Note” button to store it as part of the permanent record. This option allows you or the certifier to document information that applies to the effort certification card and is appropriate to be part of the permanent, auditable record. The two most common uses of this section will be:

1. when multiple PIs/PDs are required to certify someone’s effort (see FAQs for more information).
2. to record voluntary committed cost sharing when the sponsored project being cost shared does not appear on the effort card. This will happen if there is no payroll recorded to the sponsored project and the certifier is not the PI/PD for the project. In that case it is not possible to link the project with the certifier and the effort must be documented as a comment. Note: This situation is temporary. It will not be necessary once voluntary committed cost sharing is captured through the new Grants system.

The Effort Note History link provides a list of notes that have been entered along with the author, the date and icons that allow you to copy, edit or delete a note.

**Effort Transaction History**

This link, found at the bottom of the page, provides a log of the activity on this effort card. Click on the ‘[ ]’ to see the detail. For example, you can see the dates that various payroll transactions for this certifier were loaded to ECRT. This tool may be helpful in investigating discrepancies.

### 7.7. Manage Effort Tasks
Manage Effort Tasks is one of the most frequently accessed pages for an effort coordinator. If you are a primary effort coordinator, this page is a “To Do List” of items that need your attention.

Each individual in ECRT has a primary department. You will review and process the cards for people who have your department as their primary department. Once an individual’s effort is certified, a task will appear on your “to do” list along with the date and time that the task was added. The task will remain on this list until you process the card, at which point it will disappear from your list.

If you click on a line you will be taken to a “Process Effort” page showing that person’s certification information (see the next page for an example). You need to review the effort card and determine whether or not to process it.
This page looks very much like the certification page used by the faculty and academic staff (described in section 7.6). There are a couple of additions:

1. You will see an additional column titled “Cost Transfer”. The dollar amounts in this column are automatically calculated on any rows where "Computed Effort" differs from “Certified Effort”. This column can be very helpful, but please use this information with caution. There are several reasons that may cause computed effort to differ from certified effort.
all of them require a salary cost transfer. Also, ECRT calculates the most accurate dollars it can, but it may not reflect the correct dollars needed for a salary cost transfer.

The total of the Cost Transfer column must equal zero before you can process the card. It may be off by a small amount due to rounding. When this happens, you can change the amounts so that the total equals zero. These cost transfer dollars are for information only. Any required cost transfers will need to be processed through the regular UW cost transfer process.

2. You need to review the effort card for each researcher to determine if it can be processed or if further discussion and follow-up is needed. You have three possible choices:
   
   Do Not Process — If you click this button (or hit the enter key), the effort card will no longer be certified. This action is appropriate if there is a reason the effort that was certified on the card needs to be changed. Once issues are resolved, the PI/PD, faculty or academic staff member will need to certify the effort again. When you click “Do Not Process,” the certifier will not appear again on your “to do” list until the effort has been re-certified.
   
   Cancel — If you determine that you need to do more investigation before you process a card, you can click the Cancel button. The card will still be certified and the individual will continue to appear on your “to do” list until you are ready to process the card.
   
   Process — The process button will finalize the effort card and it will become an official, auditable record.

See section 8 for a complete discussion of things to consider when reviewing a researcher’s effort card.

7.8. Manage Department

Manage Department gives you access to effort cards for anyone who has an appointment in a department for which you are the coordinator. In addition, you will be able to view cards for anyone else who has payroll, cost sharing or a commitment on a sponsored project that is associated with your department.

The list you see through this menu choice could include people who have left your department(s) as well as some with a primary department assigned to a different effort coordinator. You can access both current and historical effort cards through this page.

Selecting a Department

Once you’ve selected the “Manage Department” menu option, there are three ways to access a specific department.

1. If you are the effort coordinator for only one department you will be taken to that department.
2. You can see a list of all of your departments by clicking on the arrow just to the left of the “Submit” button. Select a department and click ‘Submit’.

Department Summary

Choose a Department to administer. The search can be conducted using department name or produced more quickly using department and sub-department number.

3. You may have authorization to access a large number of departments and therefore option 2 may be difficult to use. A third option is to start typing the number, including ‘T’ for Extension campus, in the field on the left. Type as much of the department as you need to see the full number and name show up in the selection field. Click ‘Submit’ to display information for that department.

Department Summary

Choose a Department to administer. The search can be conducted using department name or produced more quickly using department and sub-department number. Results are produced more quickly using department and sub-department number.

Certification Summary for Last Period

Certification Summary For Last Period of Performance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In Progress For Certification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Certified, Not Processed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Certified, Not Processed, Re-Opened</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Certified, Not Processed, Re-Opened by Payroll Adjustment Reconciliation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer In Progress or Pending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certified, Not Processed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certified, Processed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certified, Processed, Payroll Pending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Approved</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Please do not use the statistics that you see in this section to determine work that needs to be completed. ECRT contains information for all employees who receive payroll from UW-Extension, regardless of whether or not their effort needs to be certified. These statistics include everyone for the department and therefore will not be meaningful.
However, it may be useful to note some of the icons identified in this section. They are used in the “Certifiers for this Department” section described below. The icons that you will find to be the most useful include:

- In Progress for Certification – this icon identifies cards that cannot be certified yet because the certification window has not yet started. The certification cards can be viewed, but no processing can occur.

- Not certified, not processed – this icon applies to cards that are in a period that is open for certification. This indicator shows that the card has not been certified by the PI/PD or staff member and therefore, has not been processed by the effort coordinator.

- Certified, Not Processed – this icon applies to cards that are in a period that is open for certification. This indicator shows that the card has been certified by the PI/PD or staff member, but has not yet been processed by the effort coordinator.

- Certified, Processed – These cards are finalized. They have been certified by the appropriate person and processed by the effort coordinator.

### Department Basic Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name: T64050 EXTCOOP EFAMILY LIVG EDNUTRITION</th>
<th>Type:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Description: T64050 EXTCOOP EFAMILY LIVG EDNUTRITION</td>
<td>Code: T64050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deleted: Active</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This section of the page provides some descriptive information about the department.

### Department Effort Coordinators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ERICKSON JUDE - 003088945</td>
<td>422 N LAKE ST, 325 EXTENSION BUILDING, MADISON, WI, 53706-1415</td>
<td>6082624974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DILL MIKE J - 008268086</td>
<td>422 N LAKE ST, 325 EXTENSION BUILDING, MADISON, WI, 53706-1415</td>
<td>6082628779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JENSEN WENDY O - 003750001</td>
<td>422 N LAKE ST, 325 EXTENSION BUILDING, MADISON, WI, 53706-1415</td>
<td>6082628406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MCCAGE BRADLEY J - 000108839</td>
<td>422 N LAKE ST, 325 EXTENSION BUILDING, MADISON, WI, 53706-1415</td>
<td>6082628012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERKINS LISA A - 001717778</td>
<td>422 N LAKE ST, 325 EXTENSION BUILDING, MADISON, WI, 53706-1415</td>
<td>6082627485</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This section identifies effort coordinators for the department. The primary coordinator is highlighted in yellow and is the only person who can process effort cards for this department. If
it is necessary to change the primary effort coordinator, please contact the campus effort administrator in the Office of Extramural Support.

Certifiers for this Department

This section includes:

1. a list of the people who are assigned to the department, separated into the following sections:
   - **Sponsored** includes people who have an appointment in this department AND they have payroll, cost sharing or commitments on sponsored projects.
   - **Non-Sponsored** includes people who have an appointment in this department, but they do NOT have payroll, cost sharing or commitments on sponsored projects.
   - **Non-Department** includes people who do not have an appointment in this department, but they have payroll, cost sharing or commitments on a sponsored project that is managed by your department.

2. the employee type assigned to each certifier. This employee type determines how often and for which periods a person is required to certify his/her effort.

3. an icon for each of the last four cards for a certifier. If you move your cursor over the icon, the certification period of the card is shown. If you click on any of the icons, you will be taken to the corresponding card.

4. a stoplight indicator that identifies each person's commitment status. As an individual certifies effort, ECRT can track the individual's progress toward meeting his or her commitments. If you move your cursor over the stoplight, information about the commitment status is shown. Note: Commitments will not come into full use until after the new Grants System is launched.

**Awards within this Department**
This section includes:

1. a list of all sponsored projects that this department is assigned to manage. Projects are grouped into active or inactive based on the end date of the project relative to the day that this information is being viewed. Note: This list does NOT reflect whether a project is active or inactive in the Grants system.

2. a link to more information about a particular sponsored project. By clicking on the name of the project, you will be taken to the Project Summary page (see example below). This page provides more details about the project as well as a list of everyone who has payroll, cost sharing or a commitment recorded to that grant.

Note – the icon you find under the SPES column is a link to a report that will not be used by UW-Extension. Please ignore this icon.

**Project Summary**

Project Name: HEALTHY BEGINNINGS—POCAN
Project Number: 133-JN06
Project Amount: $44,348.00
Project Sponsor Project Number: 2007-660
Project PI: JANETE PILTZ - 00303927
Start to End Date: 01/01/2007 to 12/31/2007

Associated Department

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department Code</th>
<th>Department Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T454859</td>
<td>T454859 EXTD/COOP EFAMILY LIV3 ED/NUTRITION</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Certifiers on the Project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certifier Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HICKS JILL E - 00289106</td>
<td>T454859 EXTD/COOP EFAMILY LIV3 ED/NUTRITION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JUDGE ANNE E - 00364107</td>
<td>T454859 EXTD/COOP EFAMILY LIV3 ED/NUTRITION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PILTZ JANET E - 00003927</td>
<td>T454859 EXTD/COOP EFAMILY LIV3 ED/NUTRITION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHMITT PENNY E - 00253648</td>
<td>T454859 EXTD/COOP EFAMILY LIV3 ED/NUTRITION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TURZINSKY KENDY S - 00248671</td>
<td>T454859 EXTD/COOP EFAMILY LIV3 ED/NUTRITION</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
7.9. View The Research Staff of a PI

View The Research Staff of a PI allows you to select a PI/PD and view a list of people that are included on his/her “Certify My Research Staff” list. This list includes people whose effort the PI/PD is responsible for certifying, such as graduate students, postdoctoral researchers and non-PI/PD classified staff who work on the PI’s/PD’s projects. The ability to see this information may be useful in supporting PIs/PDs in their certification responsibilities.

1. Select the View the Research Staff of a PI menu option.
2. Look up a PI/PD by typing part of their name, last name first, with no comma.

3. The page shown below displays all of the people whose effort this PI/PD or PI/PD designee needs to certify.

A designee is a person who is authorized to certify the effort for project staff instead of the PI/PD. You will work with PIs/PDs to identify situations in which the PI/PD does not have suitable means of verifying the work that was performed, and another individual does.

On the View the Research Staff of a PI screen (next page), you’ll see a column labeled "Designee." An icon appears in this column next to the name of each person for whom the PI/PD does not need to certify because a designee has been identified. This is to help a PI/PD focus on the staff members for whom he or she must certify the effort.
7.10. Effort Recertification

If it is determined that changes need to be made to an effort certification card after you have processed it, you will need to re-open the certification card through the “Effort Recertification” menu option. To do this:

1. Select the Effort Recertification menu option.
2. Look up an individual by typing part of their name, last name first. 
3. Click the “Open for Recertification” button to reopen their card.
4. You will need to work with the individual to resolve any discrepancies. The certifier will need to make any necessary changes to their certification card and certify their effort again.

Once the individual re-certifies their effort, they will again appear on your “To Do” list for you to process the effort card.
Note: You will NOT be able to re-open an effort card after the certification period is closed. See FAQs for more information about what is required in that situation.

7.11. Manage Users

Manage Users displays information about individual certifiers, including the certifier’s department(s), their primary department, a list of projects connected to the certifier and any assigned roles within ECRT. Manage Users also provides a link to the certifier’s current effort certification card.

You will be able to view information for anyone who has a primary department that is assigned to you. In addition, you will be able to view cards for anyone else who has payroll, cost sharing or a commitment on a sponsored project that is associated with your department.
Look up a user

1. Select Manage Users from the Home page or from the Effort Administration menu list at the top of the page.
2. Look up the user by typing their last name, a space, and then their first name (no commas) until you see them on the dropdown list. Then select their name so that the full name appears in the box.
3. Click ‘Submit’.
User Information

The User Management page displays information about the individual and provides a link to view their effort certification card. This link will only connect you with the individual’s effort certification card if it is “in process,” meaning that either:

1. You are trying to look at a card during a period of performance and the effort card is not yet open for certification.
2. The certification period is open, but the card has not yet been certified.
3. The card has been certified, but not yet processed.
4. The certification period is closed, but the card has not yet been certified and/or processed.

Email addresses

Emails for LAURIE J BOYCE - 00058484:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Email Address</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:LBBOYCE@ACSTAFF.WI.EDU">LBBOYCE@ACSTAFF.WI.EDU</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Add Email Address
You can view, add, delete or select a different primary email address for someone who has effort on a sponsored project that is assigned to your department. The campus email directory will not be updated if changes are made here.

**Departments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T454000</td>
<td>T454000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This section shows all of the departments that are associated with an individual in ECRT. Initially, this list includes all departments assigned to the user that were loaded into ECRT from UW HR appointment records. The primary department is highlighted in yellow.

Please use this for information only. Any changes should be requested through the campus effort administrator in the Office of Extramural Support.

**Projects**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extension Funds</td>
<td>T454000-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOODB INSECURITY INW/CONIN</td>
<td>T47363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FINSEP FID</td>
<td>T47367</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEALTHY BABIES FAMILY SUPPORT WORKER</td>
<td>T4736346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEALTHY BABIES WORKER</td>
<td>T473637</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOME VISITOR</td>
<td>T473638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUTRITION ENRICHMENT SCHOOL BREAKFAST</td>
<td>T473639</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUTRITION ENRICHMENT SCHOOL BREAKFAST</td>
<td>T4736392</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCONTO COUNTY FAMILY SUPPORT WORKER</td>
<td>T47363S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCONTO COUNTY HOME VISITOR</td>
<td>T4736345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCONTO COUNTY PARENTING RESOURCE CENTER</td>
<td>T4736346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARENTING EDUCATION TO PREVENT CHILDHOOD OBESITY</td>
<td>T4736352</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PARENTING RESOURCE CENTER</td>
<td>T473635</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROCK CO INTENSIVE FIRST TIME PARENT PROGRAM</td>
<td>T4736356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROCK CO INTENSIVE FIRST TIME PARENT PROGRAM (OPTICAL FUTURES)</td>
<td>T47363E0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROCK CO INTENSIVE FIRST TIME PARENT PROGRAM</td>
<td>T47363E8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROCK CO INTENSIVE FIRST TIME PARENT PROGRAM (M-E)</td>
<td>T47363E4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIL 2007 FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES CONFERENCE</td>
<td>T473632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIL FAMILY PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT</td>
<td>T473632</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This section lists all of the sponsored projects for which the individual has payroll, cost sharing and/or a commitment. If s/he has payroll on a non-sponsored funding source, you will also see a line for “All Non-Sponsored Effort”.
Please DO NOT click the red “X” to remove a project from this list.

### Roles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Active</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E141 Administrator</td>
<td>Coop Ext staff who monitor and edit cost share for Smith Level 1/413 funded support Coop Ext effort coordinators, faculty and staff in certifying effort, and serve as Effort Coordinator for Coop Ext administrative and district offices.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E241 Academic Staff</td>
<td>An academic staff employee who has expended effort on a sponsored project. This effort may be recorded as payroll charged to the sponsored project and/or mandatory or voluntary committed cost share.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E311 Dean/Division Level Admin</td>
<td>Individuals within a college/school/division who oversee the effort certification process and provide support for effort coordinators and for faculty and academic staff who certify effort.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E341 Effort Administrator</td>
<td>OES Staff who have the responsibility to oversee the ECRT system, maintain the tables and configurations, support campus and ensure that ECRT produces accurate effort statements in a timely manner.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E351 Effort Coordinator</td>
<td>An individual in the department/division who supports PIs, faculty and academic staff in certifying their effort, processes effort statements and ensures that any necessary follow-up, such as salary cost transfers, is completed.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E411 Faculty/PI</td>
<td>An individual who is a PI for one or more sponsored projects. This person certifies his or her own effort as well as others working on their projects, such as grad students and classified staff.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E511 Institutional Effort Administrator</td>
<td>OES staff who oversee the ECRT system, maintain tables and configurations, support campus and ensure that ECRT produces accurate effort statements in a timely manner, and serve as Effort Coordinator for Extension's administrative offices.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E521 PD Surrogate</td>
<td>An individual “with suitable means of certification” who has been designated to certify for researchers on a project in place of the PD.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This section will show any role that is assigned to this individual. The various roles determine what information someone is able to access in ECRT. Note that ECRT is used by multiple campuses and so you will see more roles in this list than just those used by Extension campus.

Please use this for your reference only. Any changes should be requested through the campus effort administrator in the Office of Extramural Support.

### 7.12. Certify/View My Effort and View My Historical Effort

**Certify/View My Effort** allows you to navigate to your own effort certification card. Payroll is loaded to ECRT for all employees, except student hourly, so an effort card will exist for you even if you are not required to certify effort. The authorizations you are given as an effort coordinator will allow you to view your own card.

**View My Historical Effort** will only show your effort cards that have been certified and processed. If you are not required to certify effort, there will be no cards available to view from this menu choice.
7.13. View Reports

ECRT provides reports that you may find helpful in fulfilling your responsibilities as an effort coordinator. A few of these reports are described below. There are some additional reports under this menu option that you may also find useful.

Additional queries and reports are available. Two of the reports that you may find particularly useful are:

1. **Effort Status Report** – This report will provide you with a list of all individuals with sponsored effort whose primary department is assigned to you. It will show you the status of each individual for a period of performance. This tool can be found at [https://www.rsp.wisc.edu/effort/ExternalLookup/EffortLookup.cfm](https://www.rsp.wisc.edu/effort/ExternalLookup/EffortLookup.cfm).

2. **Report of Transactions Not Posted To ECRT** – This report shows payroll transactions that have been processed through the UW Financial System (SFS), but are not posted to ECRT because the effort certification card for that individual and that period of performance has been certified and processed. The most common type of transaction you’ll see on this report will probably be salary cost transfers that you, hopefully, were expecting to still be processed. A ‘mock-up’ of this report can be found in Appendix D. *Note that as of March 2012 this report is not available to UW-Extension.*

**ECRT reports include:**

**Certification Payroll Report**

This report shows payroll information, by pay period and project, for an individual or for all individuals assigned to a department. It can be requested by dates or by employee type. The following describes each of the two options for requesting data. You will probably find that the selection by employee type is the most useful option.

Note: This report can also be accessed for an individual through an icon at the top of that person’s effort certification card. See section 7.6 for more information.

**Select Report by Employee Type (recommended selection)**
You have chosen the Certification Payroll Report

The Certification Payroll Report generates a payroll transaction summary report for an individual or Department given a specified date range.

To begin this search, please enter a search date. You have the option to search by date range or by the certification period of an employee type. The search can be conducted using last name, first name, or ID number. Searching by first name then last name will not produce results. You must search by last name only, first name only, or ID number only. Results are produced more quickly using last name or ID number. To further narrow the search result, the search can be conducted using department name.

The report results are displayed in a table format and can be exported to an Excel file, a PDF document, a Microsoft Word document, or an XML file. Press the Run Report button to launch the report.

1. Select one of the following employee types from the dropdown list:
   - Semi-annual (faculty, academic staff, graduate students, post-docs)
   - Quarterly (classified staff)

2. Use the dropdown list to select a period of performance.

3. Select an employee and/or a department. To do this, begin typing the name of the individual or the department until you are able to select them from the dropdown list that appears.

4. Click “Run Report” to view the report.
Select Report by Dates

You have chosen the Certification Payroll Report

The Certification Payroll Report generates a payroll transaction summary report for an individual or department given a specified date range.

To begin this search, please enter a search date. You have the option to search by date range or by the certification period of an employee type. The search can be conducted using first name, last name, or id number. Searching by first name then last name will not produce results. You must search by last name only, first name only, id number only, or by last name then first name. Results are produced more quickly using last name or id number. To further narrow the search result the search can be conducted using department name.

The report results are displayed in a table format and can be exported to an Excel file, a PDF document, a Microsoft Word document, or an HTML file. Press the Run Report button to launch the report.

1. Select a date range using the calendar that appears when you click in the “Start Date” or “End Date” fields. The double arrows at the top will allow you to move forward or backward a year at a time. The single arrows will allow you to move forward or backward a month at a time. Your date range must include (at least!) an entire period of performance. If it doesn't, you will get no results.

2. Select an employee and/or a department. Start typing the name of the individual or the department until you are able to select the appropriate name from the dropdown list that appears.

3. Click “Run Report” to view the report.

Viewing the payroll data

Two formats are available for viewing the payroll data. You can preview each format by placing your cursor over the “default format” or “alternative format” label at the top right of the columns:
1. The default format shows data by pay period for each project.

2. The alternative format shows data by project for each pay period.

Note that if multiple people are shown on a report, there may be some confusion in the labeling of the projects. If one person has effort on a sponsored project, and the next person on that report has effort on the same project, the project name will not be repeated for the second person.

At the bottom of the page you will find icons that provide you with options to export the data to other formats.

### Certification Status Report

Under “Manage Department” (see section 7.8) you are able to see the status of the effort certification cards for each person assigned to your department. The possible statuses are shown on the “Manage Department” page. The “Certification Status Report” allows you to select one status to see a list of individuals that currently have effort cards with that status. It can be requested by dates or by employee type. Each option is described below. You will probably find that the selection by employee type is the most useful option.

**Select Report by Employee Type (recommended selection)**

**You have chosen the Certification Status Report**

This report provides details regarding the certification status of certifiers within the system. This report contains these entries associated to the selected searched status. To begin this search, please select a status type. To further filter your search, select a search by date. You have the option to search by date range or by the certification period of an employee type. Finally, you can further narrow the search result by department.

The report results are displayed in a table format and can be exported to an Excel file, a PDF document, a Microsoft Word document, or an HTML file. Press the Run Report button to launch the report.

1. Select one of the following employee types from the dropdown list:
UW-Extension Effort Coordinator’s
Guide to Certification Practices and Procedures

- Semi-annual (faculty, academic staff, graduate students, post-docs)
- Quarterly (classified staff)

2. Use the dropdown list to select the appropriate effort certification period.

3. Identify a department. Begin typing the department until you are able to select it from the dropdown list that appears.

4. Click “Run Report” to view the report.

Select Report by Dates

You have chosen the Certification Status Report

This report provides details regarding the certification status of certifiers within the system. This report contains those entries associated to the selected searched status. To begin this search, please select a status type. To further filter your search, select a search by date. You have the option to search by date range or by the certification period of an employee type. Finally, you can further narrow the search result by department.

The report results are displayed in a table format and can be exported to an Excel file, a PDF document, a Microsoft Word document, or an XML file. Press the Run Report button to launch the report.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status:</th>
<th>[Select Type]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date By:</td>
<td>Dates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start Date:</td>
<td>[Click to select date]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End Date:</td>
<td>[Click to select date]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizational Unit</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Select the status that you want to see.

2. Select a date range using the calendar that appears when you click in the “Start Date” or “End Date” fields. The double arrows at the top will allow you to move forward or backward a year at a time. The single arrows will allow you to move forward or backward a month at a time. This report works best if you select dates that match the period of performance dates or are outside of those dates. You may not get desired results if part of the date range does not include an entire period of performance.
3. Identify a department. Begin typing the name of the individual or the department until you are able to select it from the dropdown list that appears.

4. Click “Run Report” to view the report.

Viewing the Certification Status information

At the bottom of the page you will find icons that provide you with options to export the data to other formats.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Certification Period</th>
<th>Current Status</th>
<th>Committed Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anderson, Donna</td>
<td>ED/FAMILY LIV/NUTRITION</td>
<td>01/01/2007 to 08/31/2007</td>
<td>Not Certified, Not Processed</td>
<td>On track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolf, Mary</td>
<td>ED/FAMILY LIV/NUTRITION</td>
<td>01/01/2007 to 08/31/2007</td>
<td>Not Certified, Not Processed</td>
<td>On track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wolford, Kathleen</td>
<td>ED/FAMILY LIV/NUTRITION</td>
<td>01/01/2007 to 08/31/2007</td>
<td>Not Certified, Not Processed</td>
<td>On track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woolfeth, Sharon</td>
<td>ED/FAMILY LIV/NUTRITION</td>
<td>01/01/2007 to 08/31/2007</td>
<td>Not Certified, Not Processed</td>
<td>On track</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yezek, Julie</td>
<td>ED/FAMILY LIV/NUTRITION</td>
<td>01/01/2007 to 08/31/2007</td>
<td>Not Certified, Not Processed</td>
<td>On track</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Department Project Report

This report displays all projects that are associated with your department(s) along with the name of the Principal Investigator/Project Director (PI/PD). The sponsor name is not currently loaded for UW-Extension, but will be available in the future.

You have chosen the Department Project Report

Please use the fields supplied below to search for Project by Department. The search can be conducted using Department name or Department number. The Department Project Report shows all Project associated with the specified Department.

The report results are displayed in a table format and can be exported to an Excel file, a PDF document, a Microsoft Word document, or an XSL file. Press the Run Report button to launch the report.

1. Identify a department. Begin typing the name of the individual or the department until you are able to select it from the dropdown list that appears.

2. Click “Run Report” to view the following report.
3. The report can be sorted by any of the columns by clicking on the column header.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>PI</th>
<th>Sponsor Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>144-ON14</td>
<td>EFNEP FY08</td>
<td>LAURENFJOYCE - A053984</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>133-OH45</td>
<td>HEALTHY BEGINNINGS - HOME VISITOR/PARENT AIDE, PORTAGE CO</td>
<td>JANET E PILTZ - B0030927</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>133-JN66</td>
<td>HEALTHY BEGINNINGS - POCONO</td>
<td>JANET E PILTZ - B0030927</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>133-ON34</td>
<td>HEALTHY BEGINNINGS - HOME VISITOR/PARENT AIDE, PORTAGE CO</td>
<td>JANET E PILTZ - B0030927</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>133-HE01</td>
<td>HEALTHY BEGINNINGS - POCONO</td>
<td>JANET E PILTZ - B0030927</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>133-HR99</td>
<td>HOME VISITOR/PARENT AIDE PROGRAM</td>
<td>JANET E PILTZ - B0030927</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>133-JN67</td>
<td>HOME VISITOR/PARENT AIDE PROGRAM</td>
<td>LEELEI G SCOTT - A0223077</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>143-T622</td>
<td>SUL DANE EFNEP PARAPROFESSIONAL</td>
<td>BEVERLY K PHILLIPS - B0112367</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>143-T631</td>
<td>SUL NUTRITION PARAPROFESSIONALS</td>
<td>TONYA C EVANS - D0054101</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>143-T636</td>
<td>SUL RACING EFNEP PARAPROFESSIONAL</td>
<td>JANE H SHELL - B00338258</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>143-T627</td>
<td>SUL VAUKESHA EFNEP PARAPROFESSIONAL</td>
<td>BEVERLY K PHILLIPS - B0112367</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>143-T620</td>
<td>Smith Lever Land Grant Extension</td>
<td>MARY P KIRKDO - B0075424</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>143-T622</td>
<td>Smith Lever Land Grant Extension</td>
<td>TONYA C EVANS - D0054101</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>143-T654</td>
<td>Smith Lever Land Grant Extension</td>
<td>LOIS R GOMEZ - B0015363</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>143-T655</td>
<td>Smith Lever Land Grant Extension</td>
<td>JOHN M HBARZTZ - B0100372</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>144-LW25</td>
<td>WELL AT HOME IN VIAS OF COUNTY</td>
<td>BEVERLY K PHILLIPS - B0112367</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>133-HI303</td>
<td>WISEP PROGRAM IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ONEIDA CENTER FOR SELF SUFFICIENCY</td>
<td>A0003030927</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At the bottom of the page you will find icons that provide you with options to export the data to other formats.
8. The year-round duties of an effort coordinator

In addition to processing the effort statements, an effort coordinator has many responsibilities. This section provides guidance regarding the responsibilities you should concentrate on during each stage of the effort certification cycle.

8.1. Responsibilities for ongoing review of certification cards

Payroll transactions and cost sharing commitments are loaded into ECRT on a weekly basis. Because of the ongoing nature of this data loading process, you are advised to periodically review the effort cards for your faculty and research staff during the period of performance. The Manage Department screen (section 7.8) is useful in looking up effort certification cards during the period of performance and prior to effort certification. Please note that you may not be the effort coordinator for everyone listed on your Manage Department screen. You will process the effort for an individual only when his/her primary department is one for which you are the coordinator. Your Manage Department screen shows more than just the people for whom this is the primary department. To determine whether you are the effort coordinator for each individual, you can open each effort statement. Or, a report in the Add-on Tools section can help you identify the individuals for whom you are responsible.

Here are some questions to consider on an ongoing basis and actions to take if you find issues.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions for review</th>
<th>Actions to take:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do the payroll percentages look appropriate for the researcher in that period of performance?</td>
<td>Yes: No action is needed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No: Discrepancies should be discussed with the appropriate payroll office. A salary cost transfer may need to be initiated and the researcher’s payroll distribution changed to the correct funding for future payrolls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is cost sharing reflected on the effort card as you expect?</td>
<td>Yes: No action is needed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No: Any necessary changes should be made in the Grants system’s cost sharing module. Prior to the implementation of this new cost sharing process, you should work with the campus effort administrator at the Office of Extramural Support.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are research/public service employees who are new to your department added appropriately to ECRT?</td>
<td>Yes: No action is needed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No: Once payroll, cost sharing or a commitment has been added, you will be able to access an individual’s effort card. If someone has been added to the HR system, but has not yet been paid, their profile may be viewable in Manage Users. If you do not find them through “Manage Users” or through</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Questions for review | Actions to take:
---|---
“Manage Department”, you should work with your HR person to determine if they have been set up in the HR system. If they have been set up in HR, check to see if their HR department is one for which you are the effort coordinator.

Have any of your employees left the university during the period of performance? | Yes: See section 9.2 for the appropriate procedures.  
No: No action is needed.

8.2. Prior to certification

For each certification window, there will be at least a few weeks between the time that all payroll and cost sharing data has been posted to ECRT and the time that your faculty and academic staff are notified that they should log into ECRT to certify effort cards. During that time you should again review the effort cards. The goal of this review is to verify that (a) the effort cards reflect your best understanding of each person's effort, and (b) each effort card is ready to be certified by the appropriate individual. If possible, you should address any anomalies before people begin to certify their effort cards.

When reviewing the effort cards, remember that your faculty and staff will be certifying their effort, not their payroll. The effort statement should properly reflect payroll transactions and cost-sharing commitments. However, it is okay to certify effort before all salary cost transfers have been processed and posted. When this is the case, you may wish to remind the certifier of any outstanding salary cost transfers. The certifier will be entering his or her effort distribution onto the card, and can take into account the difference between their reasonable estimate of actual effort and the payroll percentages.

In addition to the questions from the previous section, you should consider the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions for review</th>
<th>Actions to take:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Does your PI’s/PD’s “Certify My Researchers” list contain the appropriate people and not list people who are required to certify for themselves?  Hint: Use the “View PI Researchers” menu choice for this review (see section 7.9). | Yes: No action is needed.  
No: Contact the campus effort administrator at the Office of Extramural Support for assistance. |
| Is the PI/PD a person | Yes: No action is needed. |
### Questions for review

**with “suitable means of verification” and therefore the most appropriate person to certify effort for others on his/her project(s)?**

| No: A PI/PD designee needs to be assigned. Certification can only be delegated to someone who has a suitable means of verification of the effort to be certified. Delegation of certification for a PI’s/PD’s researchers in ECRT is a function of the campus effort administrator in OES. All requests for delegating certification authority are reviewed by the Director of the Office of Extramural Support and approved on a case-by-case basis. To request a delegation of authority: • Ensure that the designee has completed the mandatory effort training • Send an e-mail to the OES Effort Administrator indicating name of designee and list of projects to be delegated • The OES Effort Administrator will submit to the Director of the Office of Extramural Support for approval/disapproval. • The OES Effort Administrator will notify, via email, both the PI/PD and the designee when the change has been made. • Copies of the approvals will be kept on file by the OES Effort Administrator and will be retained indefinitely. |

### Is there information that you want to communicate to the certifier regarding their effort card?

| Yes: Notes that are appropriate to include as part of the permanent record can be added to the comment section of the effort certification card. Keep in mind that any notes that remain at the time a card is certified and processed will be part of the permanent record and will be auditable. Other correspondence should occur outside of ECRT. |

| No: No action is needed. |

### 8.3. During the certification window

Once faculty and research/public service staff are notified that the certification window is open, your main concentration will be to assist them in understanding what is on the effort card. Following are some possible questions that you may be asked along with some suggested responses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions from Faculty &amp; Research/public service Staff</th>
<th>Responses/Actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Questions from Faculty &amp; Research/public service Staff</td>
<td>Responses/Actions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I had effort on a project, but I don’t see it on my effort card.</td>
<td>This would most likely be one of the following scenarios: 1. This person should have been paid from the grant, but the payroll documentation has not yet been processed. It should be resolved through the appropriate payroll office and may need to be documented in the comment section. 2. There could be voluntary committed cost sharing and no payroll, mandatory cost sharing or a commitment recorded. In this case, the certifier should note in the comment section of the card the percentage of the non-sponsored line that was voluntary committed cost sharing and the appropriate project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are people missing from my “Certify My Researcher” list that I expected to be there.</td>
<td>The person may be able to certify his/her own effort card. Verify who should certify this person’s effort: ▪ All faculty, PIs/PDs and academic staff members certify their own effort. ▪ A PI/PD certifies the effort for all graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and non-PI/PD classified staff who work on his or her projects. Use “Manage Users” to verify that the appropriate role is assigned to this person. Contact the campus effort administrator in OES if the role is incorrect.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are people that show up on my “Certify My Researcher” list that I believe should be certifying their own effort.</td>
<td>You should verify who should certify this person’s effort: ▪ All faculty, PIs/PDs and academic staff members certify their own effort. ▪ A PI/PD certifies the effort for all graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and non-PI/PD classified staff who work on his or her projects. Use “Manage Users” to verify that the appropriate role is assigned to this person. Contact the campus effort administrator in OES if the role is incorrect.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have to certify effort for someone who has sponsored projects other than mine listed on their effort card.</td>
<td>When a graduate student, postdoctoral trainee, or non-PI/PD classified staff member works on multiple sponsored projects for two or more principal investigators/project directors: ▪ Any of the PIs/PDs may certify all of the individual's effort, as long as he or she has suitable means of verifying that the work was performed as allocated. Or... ▪ Each PI/PD can certify the portion of the individual's effort for which he or she has suitable means of verifying that the...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Questions from Faculty & Research/public service Staff | Responses/Actions
---|---

work was performed. In this case, each PI/PD should do the following:
- enter the percent of effort they know about on the appropriate lines of the statement
- add a comment in the “Effort Notes” section indicating which projects s/he certified and the date
- save the effort card without certifying UNLESS they are the last PI/PD to certify the sponsored effort. In that case, they should enter any remaining percent under Non-Sponsored Effort so that the effort card equals 100 percent. Then they should click the “certify” button to complete the certification.

- The PIs/PDs and the effort coordinators should work together to ensure that all of the individual's effort is certified in a timely manner, by one or more responsible people with suitable means of verifying that the work was performed.

8.4. After certification

Once an effort card has been certified, the effort coordinator must review it and determine whether it should be processed or whether changes are needed before it can be completed. All differences between “Computed Effort” and “Certified Effort” must be documented and action taken when necessary. An effort certification card can be processed if the “Certified Effort” is correct. Appropriate follow-up, such as salary cost transfers, can occur later.

As you complete your review, you have three choices:

1. **Do Not Process** – If you click this button or hit the enter key, the effort card will no longer be certified. This action is appropriate if there is a reason that the effort that was certified on the card needs to be changed. Once issues are resolved, the PI/PD, faculty or academic staff member will need to certify the effort again. When you click “Do Not Process”, the certifier will not appear again on your “to do” list until they have re-certified their effort.

2. **Cancel** – If you determine that you need to do more investigation before you process a card, click the Cancel button. The certification by the researcher will still be complete and they will continue to appear on your “to do” list until you are ready to process the card.
3. **Process** – The Process button will complete the effort card and it will become an official, auditable record.

You may find the diagram in Appendix B helpful in reviewing certification cards. The following questions may also be helpful in understanding what to look for and what actions to take to resolve issues.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions for review</th>
<th>Actions to take</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Are the salary charges consistent with certified effort?</td>
<td><strong>Yes:</strong> As long as there are no other reconciling items to be resolved, the effort certification card can be processed.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|                                                                                     | **No:** A difference between Computed Effort and Certified Effort should be discussed with the PI/PD and the appropriate payroll office to determine whether a salary cost transfer is necessary. Factors to consider include:  
  • Is the difference due to cost-shared effort? If so, no salary cost transfer may be required.  
  • Is the difference due to a short-term fluctuation? If so, no salary cost transfer is required. A short-term fluctuation is an effort deficit of not more than two months. As long as the catch-up occurs in a comparable amount of time and it all evens out, the effort deficit is permissible.  
  The certification card should be processed once it’s fully reviewed and reconciled. It is not necessary to hold up processing until the salary cost transfer has been processed through the university’s financial system. The need for a salary cost transfer should be referenced in the comment section of the effort card and follow-up should be done to ensure that it is completed. Note that a salary cost transfer is not required when the dollar amount, per sponsored project, is less than $100. |
<p>| If a researcher has a commitment of mandatory and/or voluntary committed cost sharing on any of his/her sponsored projects, is it reflected correctly in the “Cost Share” field on the effort card? | <strong>Yes:</strong> As long as there are no other reconciling items to be resolved, the certified effort card can be processed. |
|                                                                                     | <strong>No:</strong> The Grants module for cost sharing needs to be changed to reflect the correct committed cost sharing percentages. This is essential in order for the appropriate cost sharing to be calculated for reporting to the sponsor and also to appear correctly on future effort certification cards. This discrepancy and the action taken should be referenced in the comment section of the effort card as a reconciling item. Follow-up needs to be done to ensure that changes are processed appropriately. As long as there are no other reconciling items to be resolved, the certified effort card can be processed. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions for review</th>
<th>Actions to take:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does the effort that the researcher certified include all mandatory and voluntary committed cost sharing?</td>
<td><strong>Yes:</strong> As long as there are no other reconciling items to be resolved, the certified effort card can be processed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>No:</strong> The effort certification card should NOT be processed if any cost sharing is omitted. Work with the certifier to find out why the effort certified does not include the appropriate cost sharing commitment. Appropriate steps need to be taken to:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Make sure the effort card reflects actual effort, including mandatory and voluntary committed cost sharing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Contact the sponsor, if approval is required, when the commitment needs to be changed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Correct committed cost sharing in the Grants system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has a researcher entered a note into the Effort Notes section?</td>
<td><strong>Yes:</strong> Check to be sure the note is appropriate. This certified effort card, including comments, is the official permanent record and is subject to audit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>No:</strong> As long as there are no other reconciling items to be resolved, the certified effort card can be processed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does a discrepancy still exist after all of the above factors are considered?</td>
<td><strong>Yes:</strong> There are some allowable factors that may cause differences between the “Computed Effort” and the “Certified Effort”. Following are three situations when the difference between computed and certified effort are appropriate and potential cost transfer dollars should be ignored completely.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Salary cost transfers or check corrections have already been initiated, but not yet processed through the university’s financial system.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• A researcher had multiple rates of pay within the certification period. Example: Joe works on one project at salary X for January through March. He works on another project at salary Y for April through June. His effort for each project is 50%. But if salary Y is greater than salary X, the payroll distribution for the two projects will not be equal. When this is the case, Joe should certify 50% effort for each project. Ignore the difference between the payroll distribution and the effort distribution.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Rounding to whole numbers can cause a small discrepancy, which should be ignored.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In addition, a salary cost transfer is not required when the dollar amount, per sponsored project, is less than $100.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>No:</strong> The certified effort card can be processed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does the dollar amount</td>
<td><strong>Yes</strong> Discrepancies should be very small and most likely are due to</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8.5. Follow-up

Once a certification period is completed, it’s important to verify that all effort cards have been certified and processed. Following are things that are important to check.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions for review</th>
<th>Actions to take:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has everyone assigned to you certified his/her effort?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes:</td>
<td>No further action is needed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No:</td>
<td>Look up an individual via “Manage Users” to determine whether they are required to certify for themselves or whether the PI/PD is required to certify their effort. Alternatively, you can use the Effort Status Report in the Add-on Tools to determine their certification status, and to find out who is responsible for certifying the outstanding statement. Then, follow-up with the appropriate certifier.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8.6. Audit responsibilities

The UW's record retention policy requires that OES, as the central office, keep effort report records for three years following submission of the final financial report or close of grant. Departments are required to keep their records for two years. ([http://www.uwsa.edu/fadmin/records.htm](http://www.uwsa.edu/fadmin/records.htm)).

With the implementation of an electronic system, most information will be stored centrally and retained for the required period. Departments need only be concerned about keeping relevant documentation not recorded in ECRT. Examples may include items such as:

- notes, memos, or email messages from staff regarding changes to ECRT information
- similar types of correspondence indicating reasons for not being able to certify
- correspondence between effort coordinators regarding certifications for individuals who work in multiple departments
This hard-copy information is to be kept for three years following submission of final financial report or close of grant and then disposed as "destroy confidential".

9. When it is necessary to document effort manually

In general, all effort expended on a sponsored project must be certified using ECRT. However, there are situations when an individual will expend effort on a sponsored project but is not able to complete the certification using ECRT. In these situations, effort will be certified using a manual, paper-based process. There are two situations, described below, that will require a manual process:

1. Faculty members who are principal investigators/project directors or key personnel on a project, but are not paid through UW-Extension. For example, this may be the case for an emeritus professor.

2. An individual terminates their UW employment during the certification period.

9.1. Faculty members not paid through UW

There are circumstances when a faculty member will act as principal investigator/project director or a key person on a sponsored project, but is not paid by the UW for that time. In this situation, ECRT will not generate an effort card for this individual. However, because of the role the individual plays in the project, this unpaid effort has been committed in the proposal, is voluntary committed effort and must be certified.

If the individual is a PI/PD, they will be responsible to certify their own effort. If the individual is a key person on the project, it is the PI’s/PD’s responsibility to ensure that the certification is completed.

The effort coordinator will:

- Help the PI/PD determine that a manual process must be initiated
- Become familiar with the instructions for completing the “Report of Contributed Unpaid Effort/Activity on Sponsored Projects” form found at the ‘Effort Reference’ link on the left side of the ECRT page. See Appendix E for a sample of this report.
- Assist the PI/PD in completing the report, if necessary
- Process the form after the PI/PD has completed, signed, and returned it. The effort coordinator will sign the form and return the original to the effort administrator at OES, where this card will be available in the event of an audit.
The PI/PD will:
- Take the required effort reporting tutorial at the ‘Effort Reference’ link on the left side of the ECRT page
- Complete the form with accurate information
- Initial each line to certify its accuracy
- Read and sign the certification
- Return the signed card to the effort coordinator

9.2. Certifier who leaves the UW

There are situations when an individual will expend effort on a project, but is not able to complete the entire certification period due to a change in employment, unexpected leave of absence, health issues, etc. Because the certification window must be open before ECRT can be used, a modified process is required.

If the individual leaving is not required to certify for themselves, normal procedures can be followed and a manual process is not necessary.

If a PI/PD, faculty member, or academic staff member leaves, the following procedures should be followed. In addition, if a PI/PD leaves, the effort coordinator should make sure that a person with suitable means of verification is designated to certify for the PI’s/PD’s grad students and/or non-PI/PD classified staff members when the next certification window opens.

If an individual does not certify prior to his or her departure, the primary effort coordinator must make reasonable attempts to follow up with the individual to obtain the certification after the departure. If, after reasonable requests from the primary effort coordinator, an individual fails to certify his or her effort, the PI/PD or department chair must identify another person who can do so. As with all certifiers, the alternate must have suitable means of verifying that the work was performed. If the PI/PD or department chair has suitable means of verification, he or she can serve as the alternate.

The effort coordinator will:
- Navigate to the individual’s effort card.
- Select the option in the upper right-hand corner for Effort Card PDF Version.
- Generate and print the PDF document.
- Identify information that may not be reflected on the card, but should be considered in the certification, and communicate this to the individual. This may include:
  - payroll transactions that are not yet posted to ECRT
  - cost sharing information that is not yet posted to ECRT
- Give the printed effort certification card to the individual.
- Assist the PI/PD in completing the report, if necessary.
The certifier will:
- Review the information on the form for accuracy and correction, if needed.
- Discuss any discrepancy with the effort coordinator.
- Enter the appropriate effort percentages and initial each line to certify its accuracy.
- Read and sign the certification.
- Return the signed card to the effort coordinator.

The effort coordinator will complete the process by:
- Making a notation on the form as to the circumstances that required manual certification.
- Signing the form, attaching the ECRT card and submitting the originals to the effort administrator at OES, where the card will uploaded into the ECRT system, processed, and retained in the event of an audit.
- Initiating any necessary salary cost transfers, cost sharing adjustments, etc.
10. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

| 100% Effort | Q: I have an employee who only works 20 hours a week, but his effort shows 100%. I don’t understand why it doesn’t show 50%.  

A: Effort is not based on a 40-hour work week, nor is it based on appointment percent. It's based on 100% of the activities for which an individual is compensated by the UW, regardless of the number of hours worked. If you work 20, or 40, or 60, or 80 hours per week, your total effort is always 100%. Think of a pie chart. You may have a big pie (if you work a lot of hours) or a smaller pie (if you work only a few hours), but no matter the size of the pie, you can divide this pie into pieces that add up to "your entire pie" – your total UW effort. |

| Changing Departments | Q: One of my academic staff employees moved to a new position in a different department. Who should process their effort card?  

A: If the effort was certified before the appointment change was loaded into ECRT, an item will have appeared on your “Manage Effort Tasks” list. If the appointment change is loaded and then the effort is certified, a to-do item will appear on the “Manage Effort Tasks” list for the effort coordinator assigned to their new department. You and the coordinator for the new department must come to an agreement about who should process the statement. Either of you can process it; use your best judgment and be aware that you can share information between yourselves and document your discussion in the statement's notes. Any communication between you and the new effort coordinator will need to take place outside of ECRT. |

| Changing from classified to academic staff | Q: If someone is a classified employee for the first part of the period of performance and then moves to an academic staff appointment, will they have two effort cards?  

A: Yes, there will be two effort cards that must be certified for that period of performance. The status of the employee at the time of the certification should govern who needs to certify all effort cards for this individual.  

Example 1: if person X was a classified employee at the start of the period, but moved to an academic staff position at the time of certification, he should certify his own effort.  

Example 2: if person Y was an academic staff member at the start of the period, but moved to a classified position at the time of certification, her effort should be certified by the PI/PD or PI’s/PD’s |
### UW-Extension Effort Coordinator’s Guide to Certification Practices and Procedures

| Grants that start and/or end during the period of performance | Q: I have a faculty member who had effort on two grants during the period of performance. She worked 20% of her time on project 144-ABCD, which ended 4/30. She worked 50% of the time on project 144-WXYZ which began 4/1. She was paid out of fund 101 for her instructional time and for other duties. What should her effort percentage of effort be for the 6 month period of performance?  
A: Following shows how this effort would be calculated for six months. For each line item, the calculation is:

\[(\text{actual effort level}) \times (\text{fraction of the six-month period during which the effort was devoted})\]

In this example, the effort distribution for January through June is:

- **144-ABCD**  
  20% effort for four months out of six = 20% \(\times\) (4/6) \(=\) 13.33%

- **144-WXYZ**  
  50% effort for three months out of six = 50% \(\times\) (3/6) \(=\) 25.00%

- **Non-Sponsored (Fund 101)**  
  80% effort for Jan thru Mar (3 months) = 80% \(\times\) (3/6) \(=\) 40.00%  
  30% effort for April (1 month) = 30% \(\times\) (1/6) \(=\) 5.00%  
  50% effort for May through June = 50% \(\times\) (2/6) \(=\) 16.67%  
  **Total:** 100.00% |
| List of certifiers | Q: How can I identify who I’m responsible for when other people also show up on my “Manage Department” list?  
A: We’ve created an “Effort Status” report that may help you determine this. This report will provide you with a list of all individuals with sponsored effort whose primary department is assigned to you. It is accessible through the “MSN Add-on Tools” link on the left side of the ECRT page. A mock-up of this report can be found in Appendix C.  
**Note that as of October, 2007 these reports are still being developed, but will be available soon.** |
| Multiple Appointments | Q: I have an employee who has two appointments in two different divisions. Will he have to certify two separate effort cards? Does it make a difference if one appointment is academic staff and one is classified? |
## UW-Extension Effort Coordinator’s Guide to Certification Practices and Procedures

### Multiple Campuses

**Q:** One of our faculty members has a full time appointment at Extension campus, but also has a part time appointment with UW-Madison. How does his effort look? Who is responsible for his effort card?

**A:** All appointments for this employee will be combined into one effort card. If at least one of those appointments is an A (annual) basis or a C (academic) basis appointment, he will certify effort on a semi-annual basis. If both appointments are classified, the PI/PD on the sponsored project for which the employee works will certify the effort quarterly. His effort coordinator will be determined by his primary department.

### Multiple PIs/PDs

**Q:** I have a grad student who works on three projects. Two of them are managed by one PI/PD and the third is managed by a different PI/PD. Who is responsible for certifying the effort card?

**A:** When a graduate student, postdoctoral trainee, or non-PI/PD classified staff member works on multiple sponsored projects for two or more principal investigators/project directors:

- Any of the PIs/PDs may certify all of the individual's effort, as long as he or she has suitable means of verifying that the work was performed as allocated. **Or...**
- Each PI/PD can certify the portion of the individual's effort about which he or she has suitable means of verifying that the work was performed.

The PIs/PDs and the effort coordinators should work together to ensure that all of the individual's effort is certified in a timely manner, by one or more responsible people with suitable means of verifying that the work was performed.

### Payroll Dollars

**Q:** I reviewed a faculty member’s effort card just before he certified. Now, when I go to process it, the payroll percentages have changed. What happened?

**A:** Payroll transactions, including salary cost transfers and salary adjustments, will continue to post to ECRT after a card is certified, until it has been processed. If the effort was certified appropriately, this should not
**Recertification**

**Q:** The effort certification period is closed and one of my faculty members needs to make a change to his effort card. I am not able to re-open it for recertification. What should I do?

**A:** Once the last date of the certification window has passed, a subsequent recertification can call into question the reliability of the certification process. Therefore, any subsequent recertification request requires justification that clearly sets forth why previous effort was erroneously certified, and why the requested change is more appropriate within the context of law, federal requirements, or University policies and procedures. Such requests are submitted via e-mail to the Director of the Office of Extramural Support. Requests should be submitted by the effort coordinator. Only in the most compelling of circumstances will such a request be approved.

**Salary Cost Transfers**

**Q:** What happens when a salary cost transfer goes through after I’ve processed an effort card?

**A:** Once an effort card is processed, a transaction will no longer post to the card. However, this transaction must be considered in the effort coordinator’s “after certification” review. A “Report of Transactions Not Posted To ECRT” is available that includes these salary cost transfers as well as any other payroll transactions, such as adjustments, that are posted to the UW Financial System (SFS) after an effort card has been certified and processed. A mock-up of this report can be found in Appendix D.

*Note that as of October, 2007 these reports are still being developed, but will be available soon.*

**Summer Salary**

**Q:** I’m confused as to how to figure out a six-month percentage for C-basis (academic) faculty and staff members. Their appointments are for the duration of the academic year, and they may or may not be paid for part or all of the summer months.

**A:** Following are two examples that will help answer this.

Example 1 – A C-basis faculty member with no summer salary: During the spring semester, Professor Smith works 30% on sponsored projects and 70% on a combination of instruction, administration, and service. He works 0% during the summer. Therefore, the six-month effort distribution is the same as the spring semester distribution. This is because the effort distribution is
**Example 1** – A B-basis faculty member: Professor Smith receives full compensation during the summer, so his "100% effort" for the six-month period is the same as his "100% effort" for the spring semester. For the six-month period, Professor Smith should certify 100% effort on sponsored projects and 100% effort on non-sponsored activities.

**Example 2** – A C-basis faculty member with summer salary for June and July: During the spring semester, Professor Jones works 10% on sponsored projects and 90% on a combination of instruction, administration, and service. Professor Jones has an NSF grant and charges 100% of his salary to the grant during June and July. For any six-month period of performance, effort for each activity is calculated as:

\[
\text{(actual effort level)} \times \text{(fraction of the six-month period during which the effort was devoted)}
\]

In this example, the effort distribution for January through June is:

- 100% effort for one month out of six = 100% \( \times \frac{1}{6} \) = 16.67%
- 10% effort for five months out of six = 10% \( \times \frac{5}{6} \) = 8.33%
- 90% effort for five months out of six = 90% \( \times \frac{5}{6} \) = 75.00%

**Total:** 100.00%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who should certify for themselves?</th>
<th>Q: How do I know which of my employees are required to certify their own effort?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A: Each effort card must be certified by a responsible person with suitable means of verifying that the effort indicated was, in fact, expended in the proportions shown. The University’s practice is:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
11. Where to get help

The following is a list of available resources and the types of issues for which you might want to consult them.

Division Payroll Office (or Research Administrators in your Dean's Office)
- Assistance in determining the appropriate payroll funding for a person
- Assistance in initiating needed salary cost transfers
- Assistance in resolving effort that is late in being certified
- Assistance in supporting you in all areas of your effort coordinator responsibilities

UWEX Help Desk at 608-262-5034. Note that the Help Desk can only assist with problems related to your logon (UW-Extension NetID) and password. Any questions related to the use of ECRT should be directed to the Campus Effort Administrator at ecrt-manager@uwex.edu.
- Use of UW-Extension Net ID
- Trouble logging in to ECRT
- Need help to reset a password

OES Effort Administrator at ecrt-manager@uwex.edu or call 608-265-5917.
- Effort policy and procedure questions
- Change security access in ECRT
- Help in using a feature in ECRT
- Help in understanding data that you see on an ECRT page
- Questions about cost sharing that shows on an effort card
- Help in changing an individual’s primary department
- Assistance with available reports and queries
- All other ECRT or effort-related questions

Web resources: http://www.uwex.edu/business-services/extramural/effort-reporting.html
### Appendix A

#### Salary Codes INCLUDED in ECRT

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>Account Description</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Faculty - Summer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1004</td>
<td>Faculty - Hourly</td>
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<td>Academic Staff - Annual</td>
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<td>1052</td>
<td>Academic Staff - Academic</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Academic Staff - Summer</td>
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<td>1162</td>
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<tr>
<td>1164</td>
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### Salary Codes EXCLUDED from ECRT

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A Decision Guide for the Effort Coordinator

Statement is available for certification

Investigator certifies

Certified effort matches sum of payroll & cost share?

Yes

Certified effort is correct?

Yes

Approve the certification

DONE

No

Resolve cost sharing issues if necessary

Send the statement back to the investigator

A valid reflection of actual effort?

No voluntary UNCOMMITTED cost sharing?

Yes

Approve the certification

No

Certified effort is correct?

Yes

DONE

No

Differences are due to allowable factors*?

Yes

DONE

No

Differences are within limits prescribed by UW policy?

Initiate SCT(s)

DONE

No

* Allowable factors are:
- Voluntary committed cost sharing
- Pending salary cost transfers
- Check corrections and/or salary transfers across appointments, initiated in the legacy accounting system
- Acceptable short-term fluctuations
- Multiple rates of pay
- Rounding

The payroll distribution is reasonable?
Voluntary committed cost sharing has not been ignored?

Yes

Certified effort is correct?

Yes

Approve the certification

DONE

No

Resolve cost sharing issues if necessary

Send the statement back to the investigator

No

Yes

No

Yes

No

Yes

No

Yes

No

Yes

No

Yes

No

Yes

No

Yes

No

Yes

No

Yes

No

Yes

No

Yes

No
## Appendix C

### Effort Status Report

**As of:** MM/DD/YYYY

**Requested Department:** A091200

**Effort Coordinator:** Jane Coordinator

### Status: In Progress for Certification

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name (Last, First MI) &amp; Person ID</th>
<th>Employee Type</th>
<th>Primary Department</th>
<th>ECRT Role</th>
<th>Who Certifies</th>
<th>Certifier Role (Self, PI, Designee)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Classified, Carol - 11111111</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
<td>A091210</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>John PI</td>
<td>PI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student, Sally - 22222222</td>
<td>Quarterly</td>
<td>A091200</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>John PI</td>
<td>PI</td>
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### Status: Not Certified, Not Processed

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name (Last, First MI) &amp; Person ID</th>
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<th>Primary Department</th>
<th>ECRT Role</th>
<th>Who Certifies</th>
<th>Certifier Role (Self, PI, Designee)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PI, John - 33333333</td>
<td>Semi- Annual</td>
<td>A091200</td>
<td>PI</td>
<td>John PI</td>
<td>Self</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postdoc, Paul - 44444444</td>
<td>Semi- Annual</td>
<td>A091200</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>John PI</td>
<td>PI</td>
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### Status: Certified, Not Processed

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<th>Who Certifies</th>
<th>Certifier Role (Self, PI, Designee)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Trainee, Tom - 55555555</td>
<td>Semi- Annual</td>
<td>A091200</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Mark Manager</td>
<td>Designee</td>
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### Status: Certified, Processed

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<th>Primary Department</th>
<th>ECRT Role</th>
<th>Who Certifies</th>
<th>Certifier Role (Self, PI, Designee)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic, Andy - 66666666</td>
<td>Semi- Annual</td>
<td>A091200</td>
<td>Academic</td>
<td>Andy Academic</td>
<td>Self</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Appendix D – IN PROCESS

## Report of Transactions Not Posted to ECRT

**Effort Coordinator:** Jane Coordinator  
**Primary Department:** A091200  
**Period of Performance:** 01/01/2007 - 06/30/2007  
**Employee Type:** Semi - Annual

### Payroll Transactions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name (Last, First Mi) &amp; Person ID</th>
<th>Payroll Coding</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Pay Period Start Date</th>
<th>Pay Period End Date</th>
<th>Attempted ECRT Load Date</th>
<th>Reason Transaction Failed to Post</th>
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</table>
# University of Wisconsin-Extension

## Report of Contributed Unpaid Effort/Activity on Sponsored Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Fiscal Year:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title:</td>
<td>Reporting Period:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department:</td>
<td>UDDS:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please enter the following information about each project:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project ID (xxx-xxxx)</th>
<th>Title of project</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Role on project</th>
<th>Dates effort expended</th>
<th>Effort (% or person-months)</th>
<th>Initials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Please give a brief explanation of why the effort of this person is being contributed to the project:

I certify the effort certified this period reasonably reflects the work performed in the designated period, and that I have sufficient technical knowledge and/or I am in a position that provides me with suitable means of verification that the work was performed.

Print Name: _________________________ Signature: _____________________________ Date: _____________

Print Effort Coordinator Name: __________________________ Date: _____________

*Forward original copy to OES*