



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

## CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-16-0105-O

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We investigated allegations that students paid under NSF awards at a university were instructed to falsify their timecards for weeks where they worked over 40 hours. Our investigation found that the Principal Investigator (PI) and the students' supervisor would instruct students to keep a log of hours worked in excess of 40, and use the hours to fill in their timecard on weeks where they worked less than 40 hours. The PI and students' supervisor gave these instructions because overtime pay is not normally allowed on Federal grants. This practice has since stopped. During the course of the investigation, we learned that the PI allocates time to NSF awards based on estimated percentages rather than actual hours worked. As a result, we issued a letter to the university advising of its obligation to follow rules and regulations that apply to NSF awards, specifically with regards to the proper tracking of time and effort.

This case is closed with no further action taken.