

College of Arts & Sciences (CAS) Hyak Policy

Sept 1, 2025

Hyak (meaning “fast” in Chinook language) is the University of Washington’s high-performance supercomputing cluster, jointly managed by UW-IT and the Office of Research. Principal Investigators (PIs) can directly purchase slices on Hyak, and these purchases are tax-exempt when charged to research grants and exempt from indirect costs.

Each Hyak purchase carries an annual slot fee that supports system maintenance, administration, and related operational costs. As a Tier-1 Hyak Sponsor, the CAS Dean’s Office secures the lowest available slot fee of \$800/year for all CAS researchers. The number of slots occupied by a slice depends on the slice type and level of consumption (e.g., HPC slices occupy 1 slot while GPU slices can consume up to 2 slots).

Because slot fees are classified as service or administrative costs, they are generally not allowable charges on federal research grants.

1. Eligibility

- All CAS principal investigators (PIs) are eligible to purchase and utilize Hyak slices under this policy.
- Adjunct or Affiliate faculty who do not have an ICR MOU with CAS are not eligible for the CAS Hyak financial support.

2. Old Policy (Applies to purchases before July 1, 2025)

- CAS Dean’s Office covers 100% of the \$800/year slot fee.
- This full financial support applies for the life of the slice, up to 5 years.
- Hyak purchase agreements must be signed by the PI and the Associate Dean for Research.
- Nodes purchased before July 1, 2025 are not affected by the new policy.

3. New Policy (Applies to purchases on or after July 1, 2025)

- CAS Dean’s Office covers 50% (\$400 per 1 slot per 1 year).
- The remaining 50% (\$400 per 1 slot per 1 year) must be paid by the PI’s Department. The cost to departments will be calculated at the end of each fiscal year.
- The Department may use departmental RCR to cover this cost.
- If non-RCR funds are used, the Department must ensure the funding source is eligible to pay Hyak slot fees.
- The financial support from the Dean’s Office is capped at 5 years per slice.
- Hyak purchase agreements must be signed by the PI, Department Chair, and the Associate Dean for Research.