



Policy Title: Span of Control Policy	Effective Date: 12/14/2021
Policy Number: HR PO 1405	Date of Last Review: 12/1/2024
Oversight Department: Department of Human Resources	Next Review Date: 12/1/2027

1. PURPOSE

The *Span of Control Policy* for Radford University (University) establishes guidelines for establishing and reviewing the spans of control within the University's organizational structure to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

2. APPLICABILITY

The *Span of Control Policy* applies to all organizational units, including but not limited to, colleges, schools, divisions, and departments of the University.

3. DEFINITIONS

Direct Reports: Employees whose performance is managed by a particular supervisor.

Division Head: President, Provost, or applicable vice president.

Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) System: Enterprise resource planning (ERP) refers to a type of software that organizations use to manage day to day business activities such as accounting, budgeting, human resources, payroll, and procurement.

Span of Control: The average number of direct reports for which each supervisor is responsible.

Supervisor: The employee who has primary responsibility for making decisions on hiring, assignment and monitoring of work, and performance management of other employees.

4. POLICY

- A. Radford University's overall target span of control is three (3) or more direct reports per supervisor.
- B. The circumstances that necessitate the use of a supervisory position include when specific technical knowledge is required to effectively manage employees, when safety requires more direct management of employees, and if a supervisory position is required to comply with state or federal law.
- C. Establishing a supervisory role for the purpose of retaining or recruiting a new employee is not permitted.

- D. Recognizing that the minimum supervisory span of three (3) may not be achievable or appropriate in all circumstances, exceptions may be approved by the division head in consultation with the Department of Human Resources (Human Resources).

5. PROCEDURES

A. Monitoring and Tracking Spans of Control

1. Span of control will be monitored and maintained by the Human Resources using data within the University's enterprise resource planning (ERP) system.
2. Division heads are required to submit updated organizational charts on an annual basis to the Human Resources. The organizational chart deadline will be designated and communicated by Human Resources.
3. Human Resources will annually calculate the number of direct reports for supervisors and the average and median spans of control for each division, and identify all supervisors with fewer than three direct reports. Human Resources will then create a report on the University's spans of control which is communicated to the President.
4. Exceptions may be made by Human Resources at the recommendation of a division head in cases of business necessity. Examples of business necessity include, but are not limited to, fulfilling statutory requirements, ensuring the safety of employees or students, or working supervisors who supervise only one employee.

B. Changes that Impact Spans and Layers

1. The division head, dean, director

7. APPENDICES

None

8. REFERENCES

[2017 Virginia Acts of Assembly Ch. 836 § 4 9.04 \(a\)3,4,5](#)

9. INTERPRETATION

The authority to interpret this policy rests with the President of the University and is generally delegated to the Vice President for Finance and Administration & Chief Financial Officer.

10. APPROVAL AND REVISIONS

The new *Span of Control Policy* was approved by the Radford University Board of Visitors on December 3, 2021. The policy was signed by Interim President Lepre on December 14, 2021.

The policy was reviewed on December 1, 2024. No changes were needed.

For questions or guidance on a specific policy, contact the Oversight Department referenced in the policy.