Background

The UNC-Chapel Hill Department of Computer Science (CS) is a nationally recognized leader in cutting edge computer science research and teaching. Our faculty, staff, postdocs, affiliated researchers, and students require a sophisticated computing environment and level of technical support. This infrastructure and the associated support are provided through the Computer Services Recharge Center (CSRC). The CSRC is funded by a mix of federal and non-federal funds.

Service Fee

A service fee applies to each user of the CSRC and is charged based upon each person’s salary distribution. For example, if a person is supported 50% by one funding source and 50% by another source during the month, each source pays 50% of the CSRC fee for that user for the month. All CS faculty, research staff, and graduate students who are working as research assistants (RAs) are assessed the same fee without regard to their salary source based on their Full Time Equivalent (FTE) rate. The current approved CSRC service fee is $621 per FTE/month.

CS faculty, research staff, or graduate student RAs with full-time effort on research inside or outside CS during summer months are charged 1 FTE/month for service ($621/month).¹

CS faculty and research staff with full-time effort on research inside or outside CS during the academic year are also charged 1 FTE/month for service ($621/month).

CS graduate students with effort on research inside or outside CS during the academic year, who are employed as a 20 hour-a-week RA, are charged .50 FTE/month for service ($310.50/month).

Undergraduate RAs supporting CS research receive a fixed and reduced level of service from the CSRC and are billed at .10 FTE/month for service ($62.10).

Outside collaborators supporting CS research also receive a fixed and reduced level of service and are billed at .05 FTE/month for service ($31.05).

For non-CS users of the CSRC (i.e., non-CS faculty, research staff, or students) funded by non-CS sources, the CSRC service fee is adjusted according to levels of access and usage of services.

Billing

For CSRC users with a CS funding source, charges are billed retrospectively on an annual basis to each relevant funding source (i.e., chartfield string). For CSRC users with a non-CS funding source, charges are billed retrospectively on a quarterly basis. Prior to billing, charges are reviewed and validated with each person responsible for the financial accounting of the funding source (e.g., PI, research administrator, post-award accountant). Once billing has been validated and completed, all charges will stand, and credits cannot be processed.
Compliance. The CSRC is reviewed by the University every two years to ensure that it is in compliance with all applicable Federal, State and University regulations, including OMB Uniform Guidance, Federal Cost Accounting Standards, and applicable University policies. The service fee is reviewed annually to ensure that the CSRC is operating on a strict cost recovery basis.

1All CS faculty, research staff, and students are subscribers of the CSRC on a consistent basis and are charged accordingly as they receive equal and full access to the CSRC’s technology infrastructure and services to support their research efforts. This includes office and lab space, desktop or laptop computers and support, and access to a myriad of centrally managed computer systems, including CS-based servers and cloud-based resources and services. Technical support is provided by a staff of eight with significant expertise in research computing.