

Using *USASpending.gov* to check your CARs in 15 minutes or less

As of the 2023 NROTC PNS Business Meeting

Note: CARs will not appear in this report until 90 days after they are entered into FPDS-NG



This data is also useful for:

- Analyzing your unit's tuition impact and spending over time
- Discussions with elected officials (or staffs) on spending within their district.
- Discussions with host institutions or local business leaders

For example, in this screen you can see the main tuition payments (the \$1.5Ms) and several other payments for FY22 at NROTC Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (UIC N63295):

TIME PERIOD: FY 2022 | RECIPIENT: RECIPIENT | rensselaer | PSC: Service (1)

TABLE | TIME | MAP | CATEGORIES | Prime Awards: Sub-Awards:

Spending by Prime Award

Contracts 5 | Contract IDs 0 | Grants 0 | Direct Payments 0 | Loans 0 | Other 0

Award ID	Recipient Name	Start Date (Period of Performance)	End Date (Period of Performance)	Award Amount (Total Award)
N6329522F0002	RENSELAEER POLYTECHNIC INSTIT...	10/13/2021	12/21/2021	\$1,552,164
N6329522F0006	RENSELAEER POLYTECHNIC INSTIT...	2/24/2022	5/6/2022	\$1,550,939
N6329522F0007	RENSELAEER POLYTECHNIC INSTIT...	5/12/2022	6/9/2022	\$20,553
N6329522F0005	RENSELAEER POLYTECHNIC INSTIT...	2/17/2022	3/17/2022	\$20,553

And here is how to do it...

Start by going to **usaspending.gov**

Click to **Start Searching Awards**

USAspending.gov | Fiscal Data
An official website of the U.S. government

USASPENDING.gov

Download government spending to communities

[Start Searching Awards](#)

[Learn about USAspending.gov](#)

USAspending is the official open data source of federal spending information.

Pause text animation

Click on **Filters** to narrow it down.

usaspending.gov/search

RPI Email Navy Email Tweet NROTC RPI Navy Home MFP NYT

USASPENDING.gov

Advanced Search

FILTERS

Prime Awards Sub-Awards

Choose your filters and submit your search to begin.

Feedback

For the data above, I chose three filters:

Time Period = FY 22

Recipient = Rensselaer

PSC = Service (1) ...see below...

PSC stands for Product or Service Code. This is where we neck down to **TUITION** specifically. You may find other codes (or blank) also provide useful data. I just searched it, but here is the drill-down to **TUITION**:

The screenshot shows a search interface for Product or Service Code (PSC). At the top, there is a search bar with the text "tuition" entered. Below the search bar, the results are displayed in a hierarchical tree structure. The root node is "Service" with 2028 codes. Under "Service", there is a node "U" with 15 codes, labeled "EDUCATION AND TRAINING". Under "U", there is a node "U0" with 15 codes, labeled "EDUCATION AND TRAINING SERVICES". Under "U0", there is a node "U005" with a checkmark, labeled "EDUCATION/TRAINING- TUITION/REGISTRATION/MEMBERSHIP FEES". The word "TUITION" is highlighted in yellow. At the bottom of the search results, there is a summary bar that says "Service - (1)".

Other things I've learned along the way:

Searching by city may help if you are not sure of the payee's official name. Or try other filter fields.

There is a lot of downloadable data for Excel (for example, perhaps you want to see the whole NROTC universe, or see how you compare to Army or Air Force at your institution).

Perhaps your institution gets federal or DoD grants – you might aggregate that \$\$ with yours if you wanted to give a certain perspective. Awarded grant data can also help you uncover potential allies/professors/student opportunities.

My recommendation: save this guide into Outlook→Tasks under a six-month recurrence.

I am certainly not an expert in contracting and spending, but federal spending data analysis was absolutely a thing we did when I worked as a Fellow in the U.S. House.

Hope this helps & v/r,
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