

National Science Foundation's Definitions of Basic, Applied and Developmental Research:

Source:

<https://wayback.archive-it.org/5902/20160210142940/http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/randdef/>

R&D includes the following:

- the planned, systematic pursuit of new knowledge or understanding toward general application (basic research);
- the acquisition of knowledge or understanding to meet a specific, recognized need (applied research); and
- the application of knowledge or understanding toward the production or improvement of a product, service, process, or method (development).

...This survey specifically *excludes* quality control, routine product testing, market research, sales promotion, sales service, and other nontechnological activities; routine technical services; and research in the social sciences or psychology.

This survey defines basic research, applied research, and development as follows:

**Basic research** is the pursuit of new scientific knowledge or understanding that does not have specific immediate commercial objectives, although it may be in fields of present or potential commercial interest.

**Applied research** applies the findings of basic research or other existing knowledge toward discovering new scientific knowledge that has specific commercial objectives with respect to new products, services, processes, or methods.

**Development** is the systematic use of the knowledge or understanding gained from research or practical experience directed toward the production or significant improvement of useful products, services, processes, or methods, including the design and development of prototypes, materials, devices, and systems.