

Research Enhancement Grant Call for Proposals

Department of Communication & Journalism
Texas A & M University

Overview

The research enhancement grant program is designed to assist graduate students in the Department of Communication & Journalism with the expenses associated with their research (including, but not limited to, dissertation/thesis research). Students often incur expenses for travel, transcription, books, equipment, archive access, etc., that can make a big dent in a student's budget. This program is intended to defray expenses related these research opportunities with the expectation that doing so will a) produce higher quality research and/or b) encourage the publication of research articles by students.

Grants are awarded on a competitive basis. The committee will consider funding requests of up to **\$2500** for research related expenses. **Funds must be spent by August 1.** Requests for additional funds for conference travel will not be considered.

All proposal materials should be submitted as one pdf file (including letter of support) via email to Silvia Martinez (smartinez1@tamu.edu) by either Nov. 1 @ 12:00 p.m. (Round 1) or April 1 @ 12:00 p.m. (Round 2).

Late submissions will not be considered.

Eligibility

Any degree-seeking graduate student in the Department of Communication and Journalism who is:

- (1) either enrolled as a full-time student, holds a CMJR graduate assistantship, or who is a full-time employee at Texas A&M University.
- (2) in good standing and making adequate progress toward degree.

Proposal Requirements

Proposals should contain: (1) a project narrative not to exceed two-single spaced pages (details below), (2) an itemized budget, and (3) CV (not to exceed 3 pages).

The project narrative must contain the following:

1. Project title.
2. A brief description of the research project and rationale. Describe the goals of the project or research questions, the rationale for the project, and the literatures informing the project.
3. Methods. Describe what the project will include. Describe the procedures and tools (e.g., specific measures, specific techniques, specific archives, sample).
4. Expected findings and deliverable. What do you think you will find out? What will be produced by the project?

5. Timeline of completion. Provide a timeline that describes when you will complete the major tasks required (e.g., collecting data, writing, submission, IRB, getting feedback from colleagues, analyzing, reading, submission of completion report) and when you will spend the funds.
6. Climate of support for successful project completion.
 - a. Who is the faculty member advising this project? What will their role be in the research?
 - b. Have you ever received a research grant or participated in a mentorship in the past? What was the result of your participation?
 - c. Have you already secured access to the data sources you will need (e.g., sample frame obtained, permission to access archive, no permission needed)?

Review Criteria

The department seeks to fund work that will produce tangible products for students, that will be successful, and that will be completed according to the timeline set out by the researcher. The graduate instructional committee values brief, carefully crafted proposals that make clear the potential contribution to our understanding of important communication problems, issues, and concerns. The committee supports a work in a variety of research traditions giving equal consideration to all methods of inquiry.

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Scholarly merit of the proposed research.
- Significance of the research product that will result from the funded research activities.
- Necessity of the funds to conduct the research and/or the degree to which the research will be enhanced with access to grant funding.
- Qualifications of the applicant to develop the project in the allotted time.
- Professional presentation, completeness, and clarity of submitted proposal.

Project Completion Report

At the completion of the project and no more than one year after notification of the award, recipients must submit a project completion report to the Associate Head of Graduate Studies. The report should be approximately a page in length and should address the following questions.

1. Project title
2. Project status update. Address each of these sub questions explicitly in your response.
 - a. Was the project successfully completed? Explain.
 - b. What is the status of work generated through the project?
 - c. Describe and/or list the research products (e.g. dissertation, conference presentation, and/or publications, etc.) that resulted from the grant.