2023-2024 Call for Proposals

College of Natural and Health Sciences
Graduate Student Research Fund

Graduate NHS students are invited to submit proposals for funding to support research and research-related travel. These funds will be made available on a competitive basis through a proposal process. Two calls for proposals will be made per academic year (one in fall and one in spring).

NHS Student Research Fund: In spring 2006, the College of Natural and Health Sciences (NHS) established a new Foundation account entitled the NHS Student Research Fund. Supported through donations by faculty, staff, and friends of the College, the Student Research Fund generates funds to support research and research-related travel by the College's students.

Purpose
The Student Research Fund is designed to support research and research-related travel by NHS students. Salaries are not eligible for funding. All expenses must be consistent with University policy.

Funding Level
Graduate Students: Funding is available through the NHS Student Research Fund Foundation account supported through donations by faculty, staff, and friends of the College. A total pool of $7,500 is expected to be made available in the 2023-2024 academic year. Individual proposals may request up to $500.

Eligibility

- Graduate students who have been admitted to a degree program within the College of Natural and Health Sciences.
- Students are eligible for one award per calendar year.
- Students are limited to one proposal per semester.

Timeline for Spending Awards
Funds awarded in the fall semester must be spent by June 30, 2024.
Funds awarded in the spring semester must be spent by December 31, 2024.

Proposal Submission Deadline
Three rounds of funding will take place in the 2023-2024 academic year. To be reviewed, completed electronic applications must be received by 5:00pm on the following:

- October 16, 2023 for the fall semester competition
- January 29, 2024 for the spring semester competition
- Students **must submit their application via email[1]** (including faculty support letter) to the NHS Associate Dean of Research & Faculty Affairs (kim.murza@unco.edu) by the stated deadline. Use the subject line **Student Research Fund Application**. *If faculty have concerns regarding support letter, please contact NHS Dean's Office.*

Proposal Review Procedure

Proposals received by the stated deadlines will be reviewed by the NHS Research, Scholarly Activity, and Creative Works Advisory Board who will recommend to the Dean of the College an allocation of funds.

Proposal Format

Each application for Student Research Fund monies must include

- A completed NHS Student Research Fund Application Form (on the last page)
- A Project Narrative
- Project Budget and Timeline
- Attachments

Each of these is described below. While the student should write the proposal, the committee encourages students to seek support from their research advisory or other faculty to refine their proposals.

Project Narrative

Project narrative should be no longer than two (2) pages of single-spaced 12-point font. Because faculty reviewers are in diverse fields and may not be acquainted with your area, **write the proposal for readers outside of your field**. Do not assume reviewers will understand or value your research unless you can make a strong case. Items to address in your proposal include

a. A description of the proposed activity and its significance.
b. An explanation of the significance of the proposed research. At least one third of the proposal should be devoted to a description of the significance. The significance should address questions such as: Will the project address a gap in our knowledge? Does the project involve an innovative approach? If the project involves quantitative research, will the proposed activity lead to valid data that can be statistically analyzed? What is the impact of the proposed activity on the research community and/or society?
c. In proposals requesting funds to conduct research, include your overall research questions, hypothesis and a brief description of methods, but it is not necessary to include the research question(s), hypotheses and actual steps in each procedure you plan to perform.
d. If the proposal relates to previously funded student research, please reference how the current project is related to outcomes of the previous/ongoing work.
e. Including a reference list may be appropriate. This list does not count towards the 2-page limit
f. If requesting conference funds, include a copy of the abstract as an attachment (does not count towards 2-page limit) and indicate whether the paper has been invited and/or accepted. If you are waiting to hear about the acceptance, indicate when that decision will be announced.

Project Budget and Timeline *(No more than two pages)*

a. A detailed itemized project budget and total requested with a detailed timeline.
b. If funds are requested to participate in a conference, include the title of the meeting. If accepted, please include the acceptance letter.
c. If the total project budget exceeds $500, include a list of other project funding sources from which you are seeking funds, if applicable.
d. All equipment/software proposals must be accompanied by a budget justification verifying the equipment/software needs are outside of existing resources.

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[1] We would prefer to receive your application in a single PDF file, but that is not a requirement for submission.

Attachments

    a. A letter of support from a faculty research mentor addressing the following
        i. Significance of the project for the student's research/professional development.
        ii. Verification of non-consumable equipment/software needs outside of program resources and equipment/software value to future student projects.
        iii. Statement of consent
    b. A copy of the abstract if you are applying to attend a conference or other professional meeting to give a presentation.

Screening Rubrics

Research Proposal Criteria (12 points possible)	Not Included (0 points) Partially Developed (1 point) Fully Developed (2 points)
Clear Description of the proposed activity	
Significance of proposed research is clear based on a gap in knowledge **OR** an innovative approach	
Data collection appears valid and related to question or hypothesis	
Qualitative or quantitative measures for testing question or hypothesis are clear	
Budget is clear and justified	
Mentor Letter is supportive	
TOTAL POINTS	

Presentation Proposal Criteria (8 points possible)	Not Included (0 points) Partially Developed (1 point) Fully Developed (2 points)
Has the abstract been accepted	
Based on abstract, is work completed to the point where it is ready for presentation?	
Budget is clear and justified	
Mentor Letter is supportive	
TOTAL POINTS	

NHS Student Research Fund Application Form

Student Name (Print) _____

Student School/Department _____

Student Classification (check one) ____Undergraduate ____ Masters ____Doctorate

Degree Program_____

Proposal Type (check one) ____Research ____ Conference

Student e-mail _____

Student Signature _____

Research Mentor Name (Print) _____

Research Mentor Approval Signature _____

School Director/Department Chair Signature _____

Project Title_____