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, access to primary source data, equipment, archive visits, etc., that can make a big dent in a student's budget. This program is intended to defray expenses related to 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 **$5,000** for research-related expenses. ***Funds must be spent by July 15.*** Reimbursement for research expenses incurred during the 90 days prior to each funding deadline will also be considered (submit receipts with itemized budget). 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 October 20 @ 12:00 pm (Round 1) or March 20 @ 12:00 pm (Round 2).

Late submissions will not be considered.

ELIGIBILITY:

Any graduate student admitted to a Department of Communication & Journalism degree program who is in good standing is eligible to receive a Research Enhancement Grant.

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS:

Proposals should contain: (1) a project narrative not to exceed two single-spaced pages (details below); (2) an itemized budget with a clear justification for each line item (*submit receipts if expenses have already been incurred); (3) abbreviated CV (not to exceed three pages); and (4) a one-page letter of support from a faculty advisor or supervisor speaking to the significance and feasibility of the proposed research activities.

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 the procedures and tools (e.g., specific measures, techniques, archives, samples, analytical software, etc.).
4. Expected findings and deliverables. 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., IRB approval, collecting data, analyzing, writing, submission to conferences and/or publication, 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?
    b. Have you ever received a research grant or participated in a mentored research project 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., permission to access archive, sample obtained, 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 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 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 Director of Graduate Studies. The report should be approximately one page in length and should address the following:

1. Project title.
2. Current status of the project. Address each of these sub-questions explicitly in your response:
    a. Was the project successfully completed? Explain.
    b. What is the current status of work generated through the project?
    c. Where is the article generated as part of the project currently under review, in press, or published?
    d. Did the recipient present papers based on the project at any scholarly conferences? If so, please list them.
    e. Were all funds used in the project? If no, explain.