



Texas A&M University-San Antonio Research Council Grants

Spring 2026

Max Award Up to \$10,000

Research Council Grants are awarded to support research, scholarship, and creative achievement conducted by tenured and tenure-track faculty members with a terminal degree at the level of Assistant Professor and above. Research Council Grants provide funds for project expenses totaling up to \$10,000. Funds are commonly awarded to support the initiation of new projects and to serve as "seed" monies for Principal Investigators (PIs) to enhance the competitiveness of a subsequent submission of a proposal for external funding. In disciplines for which securing funds from other sources are particularly difficult, funds are provided to cover costs associated with continuing research projects.

Eligibility

1. Tenured and tenure-track faculty, with the discipline's highest earned terminal degree (e.g., MFA), at the level of Assistant Professor and above.
2. Faculty members are limited to two Research Council grants in any three-year period.
3. Faculty members are also limited to no more than one active Research Council grant at the same time.
4. Funds will only be available while the investigator is a current employee and all material purchased through the RC funds are university property.
5. Awardees will be required to present their research at a public forum such as JAG RISE 2026.

SPRING 2026

Application Deadline

January 31st, 2026

Award Notification Date

March 31, 2026

Budget Information

Each proposal should have a concise, clearly explained budget outline and an additional narrative that explains the need for the budgeted items in the context of the project.

Allowable Costs

Part-time personnel salary and fringe benefits (all personnel costs must be detailed and justified)
Summer Salary for the PI (2 weeks maximum)
Graduate assistant(s) or part-time research assistants (graduate or undergraduate)
Graduate student(s)
Undergraduate student(s)
Technician(s)
Fringe benefit rates
[Non-salaried postdoc]
Project supplies and materials
Computers (must demonstrate how it is essential to the project, not otherwise available, and retained at TAMUSA)
Software license (for the duration of the project, IT must approve)
Equipment (all equipment must be permanently housed at TAMUSA)
Travel essential to conduct the project or accomplish proposed objectives
Participant Support costs and/or Human Subjects payments
Other project costs, including but not limited to:
 Animal care and maintenance
 Payment for services conducted by a non-TAMUSA employee (i.e. consultant, evaluator, etc.)

Unallowable Costs

Any spending that occurs outside of the project period
Faculty/staff/investigator/post-doc salary and fringe benefits
Memberships/Dues
Costs in connection with faculty degree requirements
Travel to present research at professional meetings or conferences
Tuition
Publication costs, including indexing and editing services
Presentation costs, including poster printing
Meals (exceptions: allowable travel per diem, participant support stipends)

RESEARCH COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Members of the Research Council Committee are appointed by the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. The Office awards funding based on recommendations from the Research Council Committee. Contact with current Council members regarding your application during its preparation or before or after review is *inappropriate* because of the potential for and the appearance of a conflict of interest. If you have any questions, please email researchcouncil@tamusa.edu.

APPLICATION

Preparation and Submission

Applicants should keep in mind that reviewers of the Research Council grants represent a variety of disciplines from across the campus. Therefore, applicants are strongly advised to prepare their proposals without excessive jargon and in a style that is clear to reviewers who are not experts in the specified area. Please save electronic submissions as a single PDF. Note that all Research Council applications, in a single PDF, must be emailed to:

researchcouncil@tamusa.edu

Please see the last page of these guidelines for a proposal description for revised and resubmitted applicants.

Format

- All applications must use a 12-point font and be single-spaced with 1-inch margins.
- Do not exceed the allowable limits for each section (see application for more details)
- Adherence to the application guidelines ensures equity and fairness among all grant applicants. Therefore, applications submitted without sections in the correct order and that do not meet the format and/or section page-limit requirements will be returned and not reviewed. Under such circumstances, applicants will be invited to submit their proposal for the next deadline.
- There may be co-investigators for a single proposal submission. In the proposal, please delineate how/to whom the funds will be allocated, if not in a central account. Multiple submissions of the same grant proposal (by two separate investigators) will not be reviewed.
- Multiple submissions in the same funding cycle **will not** be considered.

Sections

The sections below comprise a Research Council grant application (a detailed description of each section is included the application).

- Cover page
- Detailed Project Plan
- Biographical Sketch/Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae relevant to the project (no more than 3 pages)
- Current and Pending
- Internal and External Support
- Results of prior support if applicable (funded grants, peer-reviewed papers, exhibitions, books, conference presentations)
- Budget Request and Justification
- Letters of Support as Needed
- Department Chair Signature/Approval on Application

RESEARCH COMPLIANCE

All research must be conducted in compliance with Federal, System and University Regulations.

If your research involves any of the following, please work with the appropriate offices to ensure protocols and necessary approvals are in place when funding notices are issued. In all cases evidence of approval is needed prior to awarding of funds.

- **Human Subjects**
 - Application information and forms may be found at the Texas A&M University-San Antonio [IRB website](#).
- **Vertebrate Animals**
 - Individuals seeking to perform research involving vertebrate animals must get approval from [IACUC](#).
- **Biological/Biomedical Research**
 - Individuals seeking to perform this type of research must contact the [IBC](#).
- **Export Controls**
 - If your research involves collaboration with foreign countries, sharing technology with colleagues in foreign countries, training foreign nationals, shipping equipment to a foreign country, or working with a country subject to US sanctions, please contact Dr. Rani Muthukrishnan at Rani.Muthukrishnan@tamusa.edu. You may visit the University Export Controls website [here](#).
- **Conflict of Interest**
 - Employees must self-disclose outside interests or business activities that represent a conflict of interest. Information is available [here](#) or may be obtained by contacting the University Compliance Office at (210)784-2028.

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CRITERIA USED IN THE REVIEW

In the review process, the Council seeks to identify and support the worthiest applications, regardless of discipline or faculty rank. The proposal will receive two reviews from a pool of reviewers FRPSRVHG RI SUHYLRXVO\ 5& JUDQW IXQGHG IDFXOW\ ZLWK RQH reviewer FRPLQJ from the discipline of the proposer and one from outside the discipline of the proposer. If necessary, an external reviewer shall be sought from with the A&M system should no one be available within the discipline. All applications are reviewed in accordance with the following criteria:

Goals/Objectives

A successful proposal will clearly state the overall goal of the project (e.g., hypothesis and/or objectives) and it is well-conceived

Relevant Project Background

A successful proposal will, in clear language free of jargon, describe the background for the project. This will be tied to select and supportive literature.

Significance and Justification of the Project

A successful project results in an important, original contribution and adds to the field's body of knowledge and outlines how the proposed work will facilitate your future career goals DQG H[SHFWHG RXWFRPHV.

Methods & Procedures

A successful proposal will clearly define the research design and delineate procedures appropriate to achieve the stated goals.

Feasibility

A successful proposal clearly stating a timeline that allows for the project to be completed in accordance with the guidelines must be provided. The necessary support resources are included in the proposal and any collaborative UHODWLRQVKLSV will be represented with letters of support.

Budget

A successful proposal will clearly state available resources, both internal and external, and what special circumstances may exist (e.g., new scholar, new project, interruption of external funding). Further, existing opportunities for "leveraging" the funds to enhance (e.g., extend, expand) the proposed project and attract future external funding will be included. For projectV in disciplines where external support is available, the Council gives special consideration to projects that have great promise for applications to external agencies.

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The proposal shall clearly explain how the funding will facilitate sustainable research or scholarly contributions through external funding or other approaches

Budget Evaluation

A successful proposal will have a concise, clearly explained budget outline and an additional narrative that explains the need for the budgeted items in the context of the project.

ADMINISTRATION OF AWARDS

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs will contact all principal investigators on/near the award date. The grant account will be initiated by the administrative assistant for the department in which the PI is assigned. Please allow at least two weeks after the notification of award for the account to be established.

- Projects approved for funding are to be completed within the time frame described in the original application. Research Council awards **are not** transferable between investigators or accounts. Any unused funds will revert to the Research Council unless an extension is granted. Research Council funds **cannot** be used for reimbursement for items purchased **before** the grant account start date.
- All anticipated substantive project changes need to be described, in writing, to The Provost's office at least 5 business days prior to the intended date of the project implementation. After consultation with the Research Council, the Provost will either approve the changes or request a proposal resubmission.
- ***Note*** Minor budget changes do not have to be approved by the Research Council. A discussion with your department chair will be sufficient in these cases. If you have questions on what constitutes a substantive change, please confer with your department chair who will then contact the [research council](#) for further discussion.
- If the project extends beyond the duration of the project period, **a formal request for an extension** must be submitted to [research council](#) at least 30 days prior to the termination date of the project. Only a single, one-year extension will be considered. The request should include a clear rationale of why the project was not completed within the original time-frame and a detailed plan for completion of the project.

FINAL REPORT

Within 45 days of the completion of the project, each applicant is required to submit a Final Report to the Office of the Provost. A template for the final report will be provided. Awardees who do not submit a final report as expected will be prohibited from reapplying for Research Council Grants for three years and may be expected to pay back funds.

RESUBMISSION OF RESEARCH COUNCIL GRANT APPLICATIONS

If an application is not recommended for funding, applicants have the option of resubmitting a revised proposal under another Research Council deadline. However, there is a limit of one resubmission for a given project within a two-year period and the proposal must follow the guidelines.

- The revised proposal must also include a statement (2-page limit) with the resubmission that specifically addresses the comments of the reviewers and how the revised proposal reflects consideration of those comments.
- The applicant should include an edited Project Proposal.
- While the request for a resubmission is promising, it should be emphasized that this does not guarantee eventual approval or award.
- After an application and a revised resubmission of that application have been denied funding, any subsequent application cannot be a revision of the previously submitted proposal. For example, it is not sufficient to merely change portions of the aims or methods and re-submit the proposal.
- If a proposal has been submitted two times for Research Council review and not funded, it cannot be revised and re-submitted. The Research Council recognizes that for many PIs, multiple projects in a sustained, programmatic line of research may bear some similarities to one another. However, a new proposal must differ substantially from previously unfunded proposals. If the new proposal does overlap with a previously unfunded proposal, the PI is asked to include in the new application a discussion of the nature and extent of overlap to support the new application's substantial difference.