

Pennsylvania Western University
Undergraduate and Graduate Student Grants
Research, Scholarly, Creative, Entrepreneurial, and Civic Projects

Undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in any program at Pennsylvania Western University are invited to apply for funds to support independent research/scholarly projects conducted in collaboration with faculty or staff project mentors. Research is defined in a broad context to include any scholarly, creative, entrepreneurial, or civic activity and is not limited to the traditional concept of empirical research. The project must be completed prior to the required presentation of his/her findings at the student research events that will be held on each of the PennWest campuses in the spring (“Strike a Spark” at California and “Celebration of Scholarship” at Clarion and Edinboro). The funds are to support student projects; there are no provisions for faculty compensation. Travel costs to conduct the scholarly project can be included in the project budget and are eligible for funding, but travel to present results at conferences or meetings will not be covered. Travel costs to present such project results may be eligible under a separate grant. Projects can include one student or a team of students. It is recommended that all students who request funds be in good academic standing (GPA of 2.5 or higher) with no formal disciplinary record.

The proposal should follow the format as outlined on the grant application. In multidisciplinary projects, several faculty or staff may act as project mentors. Late proposals, incomplete proposals, or those not sponsored by a faculty or staff will not be considered. Because the research process is intended to be educational, **the student and not the mentor** should write and submit the grant application. We also encourage students to write proposals in a manner that is understandable to those outside of the discipline. Proposals not easily understood by the grants committee will be evaluated accordingly.

Guidelines and Instructions for Student Research Application

A. General information

1. Usage of university labs and facilities must be obtained through separate processes.
2. The maximum a project can request is \$600.
3. Students who received funding are required to present at the student research events to be held in the spring semester.

B. Applicant Eligibility Requirements

1. Any undergraduate or graduate student in good academic standing.
2. Scholarly projects are broadly defined to include all students in any program. As such, these scholarly endeavors are not limited to those students in the sciences; rather students in the arts, humanities, education, business, health and human services, technology, and other disciplines are encouraged to apply.
3. Research or project must be conducted in collaboration with a faculty or staff project mentor. This faculty/staff member must provide a letter of support for the project and sign the grant cover page. In those instances, where a faculty/staff member is sponsoring more than one project, the letter of support should be specific to that project. Reviewers use the

letters to understand the project being undertaken by the student. Blanket letters given to students in different projects are not helpful.

4. Reviewers will favor funding for research and development of a project rather than for the exhibition of a project.
5. Reviewers will also favor collaborative projects with faculty members that may lead to an “intellectual contribution” in the form of a paper presentation, published proceedings, journal article, or display external to PennWest University.

C. Additional Requirements and Information

1. All proposals are evaluated based on merit, quality of the project design, and feasibility of a successful completion of the study. Reviewers may elect to fully fund, partially fund, or not fund a project.
2. Student researchers are required to present the results of their study at the student research event held annually in the spring.
3. Student researchers are required to submit an abstract of their project prior to the conference. Failure to fulfill these requirements will disqualify a student from applying for future grant funds.
4. Student grant recipients are limited to one award per academic year.
5. Proposals may be submitted by one student or teams of students, with one designated as lead investigator.
6. Faculty/staff members may sponsor no more than three individual students or teams of students in an academic year.
7. Research proposals must be submitted prior to the start of the study.
8. Proposals submitted after the deadline date or incomplete proposals will not be considered.