DePaul University's Convergent Research Awards
Request for Applications (RFA)

Innovating through Convergent Research: Grant Competition

Convergent research is driven by the need to address a specific scientific problem, challenge, or opportunity. It intentionally brings together intellectually-diverse researchers to integrate knowledge, methods, and expertise from different disciplines to form novel frameworks to promote discovery and innovation.

DePaul seeks proposals to conduct innovative projects that will inspire collaboration across Colleges, Schools, and with external partners through convergent research. Cross-college collaboration is especially encouraged. At minimum, each team member must be from a different local academic unit within the same College. Each team must consist of at least two members and the lead PI must be a DePaul faculty. Other team members can be from a different academic unit or an external organization. New or existing collaborative research teams are allowed. Interested faculty are encouraged to submit an application in response to this RFA.

Who is eligible: Full-time faculty from the academic units across the University
Grant Award Amount: Two grant awards up to $10,000 per award
Start Date: February 15, 2022
Grant Period: Up to 18 months from start date
Application Deadline: December 1st, 2021, 11:59PM CST
Notification Deadline: December 15th, 2021. PIs of top ranked proposals will be invited to present at Innovation Day on January 28th, 2022; the two grant awards will be announced at Innovation Day.

How to Apply
Email your proposal to **academicinnovation@depaul.edu** with the subject line: "Convergent Research RFA", no later than 11:59 p.m. CST on December 1st, 2021. Proposals should be submitted as a single PDF file, containing the following contents in the order specified:

1. **Cover Page:** The Cover page should contain the Project Title, Proposed Term (Start Date/ End Date), Requested Total Amount, Names/Departmental affiliations for participating DePaul Faculty, and Project Summary (up to 200 words).

2. **Project Narrative:** The narrative should be no more than three (3) single-spaced pages, Time New Roman size 12 point, or equivalent, with one-inch margins on all sides of each page and include the following subheadings/content:

Problem Statement, Key Objectives, and Proposed Approach: The problem statement should succinctly describe the convergent research issue/challenge to be addressed, the key objectives, and the proposed approach to address the issue/challenge, while demonstrating current knowledge about the issue.

Measurable Outcomes, Success Criteria, and Proposed Timeline: Describe your project's measurable outcomes and success criteria. Include a timeline of the proposed activities and explain how the project's key objectives can be successfully completed within 18 months of its start date.

Potential for Innovation and Impact: Describe the project's potential for innovation and impact, including how the project might lead to other potential external funding. Additionally, provide a brief description of the potential research that could be enabled by this initial effort and any external funding sources you identified that can sustain the proposed research beyond the 18 month funded by this internal grant program.

Team Qualifications: Describe the qualifications of the team members to perform the proposed work. Why is the individual submitting the project suitable to lead the team?

3. **Bibliography:** Up to 1-page list of related references or works should be appended to the narrative, as needed. The bibliography is not included in the page count.

4. **Budget:** The budget should not exceed $10,000 and you should use the template form that can be downloaded from [here](#).

Eligible expenses: Expenses that can be covered may include, but are not limited to: DePaul students, participation in conferences/symposium/workshops related to the project, supplies and equipment, and support for activities related to data collection (e.g. survey development, participant incentives, and focus groups). Student assistants should be paid per campus student employment guidelines & pay categories. The budget should include any fringe benefits associated with personnel salaries and should add to the budget as a line item. For guidance on the fringe benefits, please read the Budget Guidelines [here](#).

Non-eligible expenses: Faculty, staff, and student stipends or overpayments are not allowed. Other non-allowable costs can be found in the Internal Grant [Proposal Submission and Preparation Guide](#).

5. **Budget Narrative:** A budget narrative explaining each line in the budget should be submitted as an additional document of the proposal application. This is not included in the project narrative page count.

6. **Faculty Bios:** Provide up to 2-page bio of each participating faculty member that specifically highlights their expertise in the proposed field of study and qualifications to perform the proposed work. This is not included in the project narrative page count.

Proposal Review Criteria

All proposal applications will be reviewed for both academic and financial soundness by the Provost Council and ranked using the following criteria:

Depth of intellectual integration across disciplines
Significance, innovation, research strategy, and potential impact
Feasibility of the proposed project
Nature and degree of collaboration
Identification of one or more potential future funding streams