

Call for Proposals: 2017 NCAA Graduate Student Research Grant Program
Application Deadline: May 15, 2017

The NCAA Research Committee is pleased to announce the 2017 NCAA Graduate Student Research Grant Program. The goals of the program are: (1) to stimulate research on intercollegiate athletics; (2) to foster contributions to the empirical research on intercollegiate athletics; (3) to provide financial support to graduate students interested in engaging in high-quality research related to intercollegiate athletics, and (4) to assist NCAA institutions and the public in gaining access to new, outstanding research in this field.

The Research Committee invites research proposals within the general topic areas of student-athlete psychosocial well-being and intercollegiate athletics participation. Graduate students studying topics of specific interest to the NCAA and its membership, while demonstrating the competencies necessary to successfully complete the proposed study, will receive the highest consideration. Research topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Analytic philosophical/historical accounts of intercollegiate athletics;
- Best practices for academic support of student-athletes;
- Diversity and inclusion issues in intercollegiate athletics;
- Finances of intercollegiate athletics;
- Student-athlete integration into the campus community;
- Student-athlete satisfaction with the college experience;
- The impact of participation in intercollegiate athletics on the academic or social experiences of student-athletes; and
- The relationship between athletics time commitments and academic success.

IMPORTANT NOTE: NCAA Graduate Student Research Grants are intended to support research primarily in the social and behavioral sciences. Graduate students whose research is nested within exercise sciences, physical health and safety are encouraged to explore funding opportunities through their academic and professional organizations.

Award Details

The research grant is a one-time award set at a maximum of \$7,500. Recipients will be automatically awarded \$2,000 for educational expenses and up to \$5,500 in research expenses. Grant recipients will be provided with an expense paid trip to the Research Committee's 2018 meeting to present their findings and will have the opportunity to interact with and receive feedback from the committee and NCAA staff. Recipients are required to submit a summary (limited to 750 words) of research findings suitable for publication on the NCAA website and/or the NCAA Champion magazine prior to the Research Committee meeting. The research is expected to culminate in an article suitable for publication in a scholarly journal, or in a completed master's thesis or doctoral dissertation, which will be shared with NCAA Research on publication or completion.

Eligibility

To be eligible for funding, applicants must be enrolled in a graduate program at an NCAA member institution and the proposed research must be *in progress* during the award period. Thus, projects should have received approval from one's department advisor or dissertation/thesis committee prior to proposal submission. Completed studies are not eligible to receive funding. Research grants are intended to support the student while conducting research in conjunction with a doctoral dissertation or master's thesis, or for external publication in a scholarly journal.

Term of the Grant

Research is expected to commence no later than January 1, 2018. Preliminary findings (at minimum) or final results are to be shared with the NCAA Research Committee in September 2018. Understanding that graduate students may need additional time to draft, submit and defend their thesis, the end of the grant term will be set based upon the timeline submitted by the applicant in his or her proposal.

Funding Restrictions

Grant recipients will receive \$2,000 for educational expenses. Additionally, recipients will be awarded up to \$5,500 to support the collection, analyses and dissemination of their research. Grant funding will be disbursed from the NCAA to the appropriate unit at the recipient's institution (e.g., sponsored projects, campus foundation, etc.). Indirect costs will not be funded. An initial payment for 90 percent of the award will be disbursed after terms and conditions are signed by the designated institutional officer and, if necessary, after human subjects approval has been granted. The final 10 percent of the award will be disbursed after the grantee submits his or her research summary to the Research Committee in fall 2018.

Submission Rules & Deadline

NCAA grants and scholarships are operated from the NCAA Program Hub. Applications **must** be uploaded to this website directly (<http://www.ncaa.org/programhub>), and applicants should expect the process (including Program Hub registration) to take 15-20 minutes. Those submitting grants who have not accessed the Program Hub previously will need to create a new profile. Detailed instructions can be found [here](#). A confirmation page will be displayed after the proposal is submitted. Completed submissions must be entered into Program Hub by **5 p.m. (Eastern time) May 15, 2017**.

Application Requirements

Proposal. Only proposals adhering to the required format will be reviewed. All sections of the proposal are limited to 8.5"x11" pages with one-inch margins on all sides, double-spaced, in Times New Roman (or similar) 12-point font. The following sections are required and should be merged into a single PDF document:

- 1. Title Page.** Include the research study title, name and institution of the student applicant(s).
- 2. Abstract.** (Maximum of 100 words.) The abstract should be a summary of the proposed research, anticipated findings and implications.
- 3. Proposal narrative.** (Limited to four double-spaced pages.) The narrative should be structured as follows:
 - a. Problem statement.** Introduce the issues/theories/programs to be addressed by your research, including the study's research questions. Be sure to include the rationale for the study. (While the committee expects key academic citations in this section, it is assumed that applicants have completed a thorough literature review under the supervision of their academic mentor(s) and therefore a literature review is not requested.)
 - b. Methodology.** Describe the research methodology. Be sure to address the research questions and include information about the research design, data collection, sample/subject selection, instruments/protocols and data analysis.
 - c. Significance/Potential Implications.** Discuss the significance of the research and the practical application to the field and to the NCAA.
- 4. Bibliography.** (APA, MLA, or the citation style of your discipline).

5. **Timeline.** (Not to exceed one page.). List the beginning and termination dates for the proposed research. A list of the projected dates of completion of major milestones in the progress of the proposed research should be included. This list must include dates for submission of the research brief (September 2018) and final manuscript or thesis to the NCAA.
6. **Budget and Budget Justification.** (Not to exceed one page). The line item budget should total no more than the maximum award amount of \$7,500. Please submit a budget for \$2,000 in educational expenses (tuition, fees, books, dissertation filing fees, etc.) and up to \$5,500 in research expenses. Research expenses are intended to support the gathering, analyzing, and/or dissemination of the data, including academic conference travel. The justification will provide support for how funds will be used in the research project.
7. **Resume/Curriculum Vitae.** (Not to exceed two pages, single-spaced text permitted). Please include your resume or abbreviated *curriculum vitae*.
8. **Additional Materials.** Copies of any survey instruments and/or interview protocols that will be used in the study.

References. In addition to submitting the proposal as outlined above, applicants will be asked to submit the name, title and contact information for two references in Program Hub during the application process. A link to a brief (four-question) on-line recommendation form will be sent to both references Tuesday, May 16, and the form must be completed by Friday, June 2, 2017. Applicants without two references submitted on their behalf will not be considered.

References should be graduate advisors, professors and/or others who can affirm that the applicant and proposed study meet the eligibility requirements, speak to the specifics of the research proposal, and affirm the applicant's ability to successfully answer the research questions posed using the methods selected and sample identified (e.g., by noting relevant coursework or previous research employing the described methods, and/or demonstrating confidence that the applicant can access the sample population).

Applicant Resources

The NCAA Graduate Student Research Grant [website](#) includes important resources for applicants, including:

- FAQ document.
- List of previously awarded grants and abstracts.
- Sample funded proposals.
- Mock budgets and budget narratives.
- Example of the reference form.
- Evaluation rubric.

Grant Decisions

The NCAA research staff will conduct an initial review of all completed proposals to ensure they meet the submission requirements outlined above. Proposals that meet the requirements will then be reviewed by the Research Committee, which is comprised of athletics administrators and faculty athletics representatives.

The Research Committee will make final funding decisions and all applicants will be notified of the status of their submission by **October 1, 2017**.