

UMSL Mid-Career Research & Creative Works Seed Grants

Applications Due March 14, 2025 5:00 PM

Purpose

UMSL Mid-Career Seed Grants provide funding to support research and creative work with high potential for scientific or societal impact and external funding. This funding aims to help mid-career faculty generate preliminary data in preparation for external applications and to stimulate multidisciplinary research toward solving big problems.

Eligibility

- PI must be a full-time tenure track UMSL faculty member at rank of Associate Professor; there are no rank requirements for UMSL Co-PIs
- Applicants may submit no more than one proposal as PI or Co-PI
- Applicants must be current with final reports for previous internal awards

Award Information:

Maximum Award Size: \$30,000

Project Period: July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026*

*No extensions permitted; all funds must be expended within 12 months

- For faculty with approved sabbatical leave, funding may be requested for expenses associated with sabbatical such as travel to the research site and short term, temporary housing while securing housing for the sabbatical period; salary support is not an allowable expense.
- Eligible Costs: Graduate Research Assistants, Undergraduate Research Assistants, course buyouts, equipment, software, data sets, supplies, travel, team development for large collaborative projects, specialized training, professional development, or other resources needed to pivot to a new area or advance existing research.
- Co-PIs may be budgeted as long as they are UMSL faculty; collaborators from other institutions are not eligible for funding
- Graduate students cannot be supported on a research award if they simultaneously hold a Dissertation Fellowship, a Graduate School Fellowship, or a Graduate Student Summer Research Fellowship.
- Any recipient who receives internal or external funding for essentially the same project must return the UMSL Mid-Career funds to the extent of the overlap in aims or budget

Application Requirements

InfoReady: Complete and submit your application in InfoReady

Formatting: Use a font size of 11 or larger and one-inch margins.

Application Components:

- 1) **Project Summary** Complete in InfoReady (Maximum of 300 words, single spaced)
 - Provide an overview of the proposed research project or creative work. Include the following headings/sections: objectives, significance and expected results
- 2) **Project Description** (Maximum of 5 pages, single-spaced, font size of 11 or larger, pages numbered consecutively) - Upload to InfoReady

Include the following headings and content:

Objectives

- Clearly state the research aims, questions or objectives of the proposed research or creative work

Background and Significance

- Briefly help the reviewers understand the current state of knowledge in the field
- Discuss previous work by you and others
- Identify gaps in the existing research that the proposed research will fill
- For creative works, describe what is novel and creative about the proposed project

Methods/Approach

- Describe the methods or how you will carry out the proposed research or creative work
- Provide enough detail for reviewers to understand what you propose to do and to evaluate feasibility to carry out the research or creative work in the one-year period
- Discuss any potential challenges and how you will address
- Include a project timeline including start date
- Define roles of all personnel and partners involved including student research assistants

Expected Outcomes

- Discuss how Mid-Career funding will advance your research career including toward promotion to Full Professor
- Describe expected outcomes such as preliminary data, manuscripts, grant proposals, book chapters, performances, exhibits, partnerships etc.
- For manuscripts, provide the anticipated number of publications and the names of target journals

External Funding Strategy

- Discuss how the proposed research or creative work will lead to external funding
- Discuss your strategy for obtaining external funding including the specific funding agency and mechanism you plan to apply to, and the target application dates
- Describe how the proposed research or project aligns with the mission of the identified funder

New Areas of Research and Scholarship (If applicable)

- If pivoting to a new area of research or creative activity, please describe the new area, outline the requested support, and describe how this funding will help you be successful in this new area

3) References/bibliography in a format appropriate to the PIs discipline (please limit to two pages)

4) Budget and Budget justification spreadsheet – Upload to InfoReady

- Complete the Mid-Career budget template
- Label the spreadsheet file name with your last name (Example: Jones_UMSLMidCareerAward_Budget)
- Provide a realistic estimate of costs needed to carry out the proposed project. Enter budget justification for each requested item in the budget spreadsheet in Column G
- When budgeting for GRAs use department rates (Check with your College Business Manager or Dept administrator)

5) Biographical Sketch (two-page maximum) – Upload to InfoReady

Provide a two-page biographical sketch/cv that includes Education, Professional Appointments, Evidence of Scholarship (relevant refereed journal articles, book chapters, books, etc.), and Significant Accomplishments, Honors, Awards, and/or Service Contributions

6) Current and Pending Support – Complete in InfoReady

- List all current and pending research support (internal and external) including Title, Funder, Amount requested, Total Award Amount, Project Period and Role

Submit Your Completed Application in InfoReady

- Review your application carefully
- Submit your application in the InfoReady application portal no later than **5:00 PM on March 14, 2025**
- Make sure total amount in spreadsheet matches the total in the InfoReady budget summary

Review Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria.

Intellectual Merit: the merit and quality of the research or creative work and its potential to advance knowledge and make an original and significant contribution to science, scholarship, or creative works

Impact: the potential to benefit one's discipline, the region, society, or vitality of the university's research and creative work and the potential of the work to lead to external funding

Feasibility: the feasibility of the project and likelihood that the work can be completed within the project period

Budget: Costs are well-justified and align with narrative

Award Conditions

- Award recipients must submit a final report to ORECD (Office of Research and Economic & Community Development) no later than 30 days or July 30, 2026, following the end of the award period. Pre-award staff will be in contact with report requirements and submission details
- Recipients are encouraged to work with UMSL's Research Development team to explore and pursue external funding to continue to advance the proposed research or creative work

Questions?

Reach out to Cynthia Jobe at jobec@umsl.edu