Pathways to the Doctorate Collaboration Grants

Texas A&M University
Graduate and Professional School

INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE

The Graduate and Professional School is accepting grant requests from departments and colleges at Texas A&M University to support mutually beneficial collaborations that will increase the application, acceptance, and timely graduation of students from underrepresented populations in Texas A&M University graduate and professional programs. These efforts seek to address a report from the Presidential Commission on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion finding that Hispanic, LatinX, and Black and African American graduate student enrollment percentages are underrepresented when compared to the state's demographics.

Proposals must be collaborative with faculty or staff at one or more institutions, seeking to improve long-term partnerships and pathways that ultimately create a sustainable pipeline for students from diverse and underrepresented populations to enter graduate programs at our institution while providing adequate support to students to ensure retention, timely graduation, and career success.

Grants should focus on activities that expand the number and reach of pathways to achieve the long-term goal of recruiting, enrolling, and graduating students from underrepresented minoritized populations in TAMU’s doctoral programs.

Funding is provided from The Texas A&M University System, the Graduate and Professional School, and the Division of Research.

FUNDING PRIORITIES

- Grant activities must be responsive to organizational and cultural differences of partnering institutions, and utilize evidence-based practices.
- The grants must be used to support activities that directly impact and advance the relationship between TAMU Department(s), College, or Intercollegiate faculty affiliated with a graduate IDP and partner institution(s). Activities may engage sophomore through master's level students from partner institutions.
- Grants may focus on new collaborations or support an existing pathway collaboration, but must demonstrate a mutually beneficial collaboration.
- Grants may be used to support the initiation of pilot efforts for future scalability or building upon ongoing mutually beneficial collaborative efforts.
- Example activities eligible for funding include, but are not limited to: recruitment visits; activities that advance mutually beneficial partnerships with Texas A&M University System institutions, Minority Serving Institutions, or institutions with national programs with undergraduate research components such as Dept of Ed McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, NSF LSAMP Program, NIH Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) Program, etc.; short-term disciplinary or interdisciplinary focused symposium,
workshops, or meetings which target prospective doctoral students; and structured summer experiences at Texas A&M University.

- Those who receive collaboration grants will receive priority (but not guaranteed) the Pathways to Doctorate Fellowship award selection.

Preferences will be given to efforts that seek to address the disparity between Hispanic, LatinX, and Black and African American graduate student enrollment percentages at Texas A&M University when compared to the state's demographics:

- Proposed grant activities that are focused on the enrollment of underrepresented minorities.
- Department/Colleges who initiate pathway partnerships with Texas A&M University System Institutions and Minority Serving Institutions.
- Departments/Colleges who create a pathway to doctorate programs which build community and support timely graduation (5.5 Years).
- Departments/Colleges that seed new faculty collaborations across partner institutions.

**TENTATIVE TIMELINE**

**Round One | 2021-2023**

- September 15, 2021-Submission of proposals open
- October 1, 2021, 3:00 pm CST-Informational session offered via Zoom: https://tamu.zoom.us/j/96330435072?pwd=OE5kenBqd1IEalFkOGFkRFk1em9uZz09 The Zoom session will be recorded so that those unable to attend can view the recording at a later time.
- October 15, 2021-Submission of proposals close and review begins
- October 30, 2021-Announcement of the seven funded proposals
- November 15, 2021-Funding period begins
- End of spring 2022 semester-Faculty present details about their grant activities during a gallery exhibition of infographics at the Pathways to Doctorate Collaborative Grantees Conference
- May 15, 2023-Faculty submit final report

Second Round, January 2022-June 2024
Third Round, January 2023-June 2025
Fourth Round, January 2024-June 2026

**PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

Proposal submissions should include the following through the InfoReady portal:

- **NAME OF PROPOSAL AND PRIMARY CONTACT**
- **NAME(S) OF TAMU FACULTY MEMBERS, STAFF, AND STUDENTS, AND ROLES** (much include the Departmental Graduate Director on team to ensure the proposal is integrated into the department)
● NAMES OF PARTNER INSTITUTION(S) ENGAGED AND FACULTY MEMBERS, DEPARTMENTS, ROLES – Describe the nature of the expected engagement with the partner institution and prior engagement that is being built upon if a relationship already exists.

● COST SHARING—Describe any cost sharing that is being provided by the proposing team.

● DEPARTMENT HEAD APPROVAL—indicating support for activities and costs described in the proposal.

● GOC DEAN APPROVAL

● LETTER OF COMMITMENT FROM PARTNER INSTITUTION(S)—Discuss specifics of commitment and engagement

● PROJECT NARRATIVE —Provide a proposal description pitched toward a general audience that describes the proposed activities, mutual benefits of the collaboration and ways the activities are responsive to organizational and cultural differences. (10-page single space limit)

● OUTCOMES STATEMENT — The proposal clearly identifies intended measurable outcomes and impacts and provides a brief description of the measures to be used to assess these outcomes, addressing the primary goal: How the grant expands the number and reach of pathways to achieve the long-term goal of recruiting and enrolling students from underrepresented minoritized populations in TAMU's doctoral programs and addresses the disparity between Hispanic, LatinX, and Black and African American graduate student enrollment percentages when compared to the state's demographics.

● CONTINUATION PLAN — The proposal addresses a plan for how activities or changes will be sustained beyond the funding period and will seek to address the disparity between Hispanic, LatinX, and Black and African American graduate student enrollment percentages when compared to the state's demographics.

● PLANNED BUDGET EXPENSES —Allowable expenses include: travel support, planning and implementation of collaborative activities, student support for summer research experience, and consortium development. Funding may not be used for faculty or staff salaries, graduate student stipends, or as a replacement or substitute for funding for existing activities.

● PROPOSAL SUBMISSION — All proposals must be submitted through the InfoReady portal by the deadline with all required items above.

**TERMS OF THE AWARD**

Funding: Seven grants each round. Five small grants (up to $10,000); Two large grants (up to $25,000 each). Grants are for one year, with funds to be used within 18 months of the award date.

Funding start date for Round One is tentatively November 15, 2021.

**PARTICIPATION IN REQUIRED MEETINGS**— Funded proposals must send a representative to the Kick-off meeting, Quarterly meetings, and Annual Conference. At the Annual Conference, grantees will create and share an infographic illustrating the proposal plan for display during a gallery exhibition so others may learn about the opportunity and shared experiences.

**REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

Upon completion of the 18 months project, awardees are required to submit a Final Report including financial information for expenditures incurred under this grant no later than 90 days following the project term date.
The Final Report should address the following:
- Describe accomplishments, findings, or discoveries that may be of interest to decision makers and the general public
- Identify additional funding that has been received or requested as a result of this grant
- Progress towards accomplishments of proposed outcomes such as:
  - Creating pathways that would increase the size of the pool of applicants from underrepresented groups.
  - Evidence of establishing a relationship with Texas A&M University System institutions and other minority-serving institutions complementing their existing graduate programs.
  - Expanding the number and reach of pathways to achieve the long-term goal of recruiting and enrolling students from underrepresented minoritized populations in TAMU's doctoral programs.
  - Addressing the disparity between Hispanic, LatinX, and Black and African American graduate student enrollment percentages when compared to the state's demographics.
- Identify any publications that have resulted from this grant
- Report actual budget expenditures
- Share reflections of attending the Grantees Conference and meetings.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

To be considered for a grant, an application must be submitted according to the guidelines set forth. A peer-review panel will evaluate and score each submitted proposal based on the following major criteria:

- Grant seeks to address the disparity between Hispanic, LatinX, and Black and African American graduate student enrollment percentages when compared to the state's demographics.
- Proposed activities target development of or expansion of pathways that would increase the size of the pool of applicants from underrepresented groups.
- Description of a mutually beneficial collaboration and evidence of commitment from partner institution(s).
- Demonstrates ability to carry out the program and willingness to attend and engage in the Grantees Conference and other related meetings.
- Shows evidence of a diverse team.
- Proposed outcomes address collaborative grant goals and proposal demonstrates potential impact the grant will have in the Department or College of team.

PROGRAM LIMITATIONS

- All doctoral programs at Texas A&M University and Texas A&M University Galveston are eligible for this program.
- Faculty may lead a proposal, but the proposal must have support of the graduate director and the department head, intercollegiate faculty chair, or dean (for college-led programs). It
is expected that teams will include a mixture of faculty, staff, and graduate students including representatives from department/program admissions committees and be diverse by gender and race/ethnicity. Teams may include representatives from university offices.

- Only one award per department or graduate IDP during the initial four-year competition is allowed.
- This grant is not intended for general recruitment events (recruitment visits to campus, preview weekend, conference grad fair, etc.) but is instead intended for activities which build sustainable, mutually beneficial partnerships.

**PROGRAM CONTACTS**

Julie Harlin, Associate Dean, Graduate and Professional School

[j-harlin@tamu.edu](mailto:j-harlin@tamu.edu) 979-845-0000