

Program Description

The Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, and the Office of the Vice President for Research announce a new internal funding program designed to encourage competitive extramural interdisciplinary grant proposals. The explicit goal of the Interdisciplinary Proposal Development (IPD) program is to support cross-disciplinary teams of faculty, perhaps with partners from other research institutions, government or private sector, in their efforts to prepare competitive proposals for grand challenge-type multi-investigator/multi-institution grants. These funds are being distributed in order to generate more external dollars to UGA and all activities supported by IPD should be undertaken with this overriding objective in mind.

Eligibility Criteria

Proposals should be submitted by interdisciplinary research teams.

Budget/Funding

Maximum awards will be \$75,000 but typical awards will be at or below \$50,000. Appropriate uses of these funds might be to support the generation of pilot data, travel to meet with potential partners, and payment for external expert reviews. Funds are not intended to support conferences.

Application Information

Letter of Intent: All faculty PIs leading teams that intend to submit an IPD proposal must submit a brief Letter of Intent (LOI) by March 1, 2014. The LOI will aid in identifying appropriate teams of reviewers. The LOI should affirm the intent to apply, provide a brief description (3 sentence maximum) of the project, and identify UGA faculty participants known as of March 1 (this list is not limiting).

Proposals: IPD Proposals are limited to no more than 10 pages and should:

- Identify the external funding opportunity in appropriate detail (agency, specific call for proposal and deadline, if known) and describe the timeline for grant proposal preparation and submission. Document advanced outreach to the funding entity;
- Explicitly describe how the funds will be used. Include a budget that clearly shows how funds will help in the preparation of a competitive external grant proposal;
- Explain why the particular funding opportunity is an especially attractive one for UGA. Why will UGA (and its partners, if any) be especially competitive for the award?;
- List participating UGA faculty along with the credentials of the group's leadership;
- List participants from other institutions, along with a rationale for their inclusion; provide documentation of their willingness to participate.

NOTE: A letter of support from the appropriate deans is required but is not counted against the page limit.

Submission Instructions and Deadlines

Letter of Intent: Submit the LOI via email attachment to ovpr@uga.edu by March 1, 2014.

Proposals: Submit proposals via email attachment to ovpr@uga.edu by March 14, 2014. Contact David Lee at dclee@uga.edu with any questions.

Evaluation Criteria and Procedures

Proposals will be reviewed by a team of faculty and administrators jointly assembled by the Provost and VP for Research. Proposals will be judged on the basis of their potential for competitiveness for the indicated funding opportunity. Criteria will include the strength of the leadership, the UGA team and its institutional partners (if any), the specificity of information regarding the external funding opportunity, and the quality of the plan leading up to proposal submission. Only meritorious proposals will be selected for funding.

Award Conditions

In accepting IPD planning awards, teams commit to submitting a grant proposal for the identified external funding opportunity by the agency deadline. Successful teams will be strongly encouraged to work with the OVPR GrantSMART team, which was specifically established to assist faculty in assembling complex, multi-investigator, multi-institution proposals (<http://www.ovpr.uga.edu/grantsmart/>).

Funds must be expended by the end of fiscal year 2015 (30 June 2015).

Other Information

- As emphasized previously, all teams must identify the type of external funding opportunity they are targeting with as much specificity as possible and should include a published RFP with the proposal if one is available. Reviewers will be instructed to favor proposals that are geared towards specific funding opportunities.
- Teams may propose a project that has been previously rejected by external funding agencies but may not submit projects described in proposals that are currently pending at external funding agencies.
- Individual faculty may be involved in more than one proposal.
- UGA does not have to be the lead institution if a stronger team can be assembled with another institution as lead.
- There is no explicit dollar minimum and a variety of multi-investigator/multi-disciplinary grants are eligible as targets, including Program Project Grants, center grants, training grants, NEH Challenge Grants, Grand Challenge Grants, and even especially large individual RO1-type grants.