Call for Proposals: 2024 NCAA Graduate Student Research Grant Program
Application Deadline: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 (11:59 p.m. EDT)

NCAA Research is pleased to announce the 2024 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.

We invite research proposals examining the role of intercollegiate athletics in higher education and the college student-athlete psychosocial experience. High-quality studies on topics of interest to the NCAA membership 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;
- Gambling and wagering on college sports;
- Student-athlete integration into the campus community;
- Student-athlete transfer and degree attainment; and
- The impact of participation in intercollegiate athletics on the academic or social experiences of student-athletes.

IMPORTANT NOTE: This grant program is intended to support research primarily in the **social and behavioral sciences**. *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 are required to submit a summary of research or report of findings by Monday, June 30, 2025.

Eligibility
Applicants must be enrolled in a graduate program at an active or reclassifying NCAA member institution at the time of application submission and during the award period. Additionally, the proposed research (i.e., data collection, data analyses or writing of findings) must be *in progress* during the award period. Thus, projects must have received approval from one's advisor or dissertation/ thesis committee prior to proposal submission. Completed studies (those that will conclude prior to October 1, 2024) are not eligible to receive funding. Research grants are intended to support students conducting research in conjunction with a master's thesis or doctoral dissertation, or for external publication in a scholarly journal.

Terms of the Grant

Research must commence no later than October 1, 2024. Requested funds must be spent by June 30, 2025, regardless of thesis or dissertation defense timeline. Grant funds can be used to cover expenses incurred between May 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025.

Funding Restrictions

A maximum of $7,500 will be awarded to each grant recipient to support the collection, analyses and dissemination of their research. Funding requests for educational expenses cannot exceed $2,000, funding for hardware (e.g., laptop computer) not central to the *collection* of research may not exceed $1,500 (please see the FAQ for this program for further clarification) and funding for conference travel/participation may not exceed $2,000. Indirect costs will not be funded. Funds will be disbursed to the appropriate unit at the recipient's institution (e.g., sponsored projects, campus foundation). An initial payment for 90 percent of the award will be disbursed after terms and conditions are signed by the designated institutional officer. The final 10 percent of the award will be disbursed after the grantee submits their final expense report.

Submission Rules and Deadline

NCAA grants and scholarships are operated from the NCAA Program Hub. Applications **must** be uploaded to this website directly. 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 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 **11:59 p.m. (Eastern time) Wednesday, May 1, 2024.**

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, 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.** Please list research study title, name and institution of the student applicant, the applicant's address, phone number and email address, and the name and contact information for the institutional grant or foundation officer who will support the applicant, if funded.

2. **Proposal Narrative.** (Limited to five double-spaced pages.) The narrative should be structured as follows:

    a. **Abstract.** (Maximum of 100 words.) The abstract should be a summary of the proposed research, anticipated findings, and implications.

    b. **Research Questions.** (Maximum of 100 words.) List the research question(s) that guide the proposed study.

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    c. **Methodology.** How will the research question(s) be answered? Describe the research design, sample/subject selection and recruitment, means of data collection, instruments/protocols to be used, methods of analyses and anticipated research limitations. (Note: Survey instruments, interview protocols, etc., may be included, in full, in the "Additional Materials" section of the proposal.)

    d. **Significance/Potential Implications.** Discuss the significance of the research and the practical application of your anticipated findings to the NCAA membership (e.g., institutions of higher education, athletics administrators and/or student-athletes).

4. **Bibliography.** Provide citations for all works cited in the narrative using 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 between May 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025 must be included. (Note that the project timeline must commence no later than October 1, 2024.) This list must include dates for submission of the research brief (June 30, 2025) 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. Research expenses are intended to support the gathering, analyzing, and/or dissemination of the data, including academic conference travel. The justification must provide support for how funds will be used in the research project. Sample budgets and justifications are included on the grant [website](#).

7. **Resume/Curriculum Vitae.** (Not to exceed two pages, single-spaced text permitted.) Please include your resume or abbreviated *curriculum vitae*.

8. **Additional Materials.** (Optional.) Copies of any survey instruments and/or interview protocols that will be used in the study.

Professional References. In addition to submitting the proposal, applicants will submit the name and contact information for two references in Program Hub during the application process. A link to a brief (four-question) online recommendation form will be sent to both references by Friday, May 3, and the form must be completed by Monday, May 20, 2024. *Applicants without two recommendation forms 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).

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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 evaluated by an external review panel, which is comprised of faculty and athletics administrators from NCAA-member institutions.

The review panel will make final funding decisions and all applicants will be notified of the status of their submission by **Friday, August 30, 2024.**