

NCAA Graduate Student Research Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

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SUBMISSION PROCESS

Application error. There is a mistake on my original submission PDF---can I make changes after I have uploaded it?

Yes. Log into [NCAA Program Hub](#) and return to the Graduate Student Research Grant application. Necessary changes to an application can be made until the submission deadline. Any changes or additions will replace the data previously entered and/or previously uploaded documents.

Direct mail. Can I send/email my proposal directly to the NCAA?

No. All proposals must be submitted via the Program Hub.

Institutional authorization. Do I need to work through my institution's grants/sponsored projects office on this proposal?

Applicants are strongly encouraged to follow the grant application protocol established by their institution, department or college. The NCAA does not have restrictions regarding who submits the grant proposal; however, an institutional official will need to approve the terms and conditions of the grant, if received. Therefore, working with the appropriate unit at the outset is strongly recommended. Applicants must also list the name and contact information for the school grant or foundation officer who will support the applicant on the Title Page of the application.

ELIGIBILITY

Graduate student at a non-NCAA member institution. I am currently enrolled as a graduate student at an institution that is not an NCAA member, but my study will specifically explore the experience of NCAA student-athletes. Am I eligible for funding?

No. Only those enrolled in graduate programs at *active or reclassifying* NCAA member institutions are eligible for grant funding, regardless of the research site/population.



First-year graduate students. I just started my PhD program, so I am not in the dissertation phase, but I have a great idea for a study. Can I still apply for funding?

Yes. NCAA Graduate Student Research Grant funds are available to support research resulting in a doctoral dissertation, master's thesis or external publication in a scholarly journal. If you see your work culminating in a publishable piece, you are welcome to apply.

Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval. Do I have to have IRB approval before submitting the grant proposal, or can I submit my project for human subjects approval after I am funded?

Prior IRB approval is not necessary to receive the grant. However, NCAA Research expects that you will follow institutional guidelines around ensuring protection of human subjects.

Students in their final year. I am in the final year of my graduate program and have already collected my data. Is it too late to apply?

Your project is eligible for funding if you are continuing to analyze the data and/or write up your findings throughout the grant period. Please refer to the call for proposals for the exact dates of the grant period.

Probationary period. My institution's athletics program is in an NCAA probationary period—can I still apply for the funding?

Yes. Institutions with active or reclassifying membership in the NCAA are permitted to receive grant funding, even if on probation.

Provisional membership. My institution is currently a provisional member of the NCAA. May I still apply?

No. Only institutions with active or reclassifying NCAA membership status can receive grant funding from the NCAA. Those with [provisional](#) status are not eligible for grant funding.

BUDGET

Indirect costs. My institution requires documentation noting that indirect or administrative costs are not covered by the grant funding. Will this be a problem?

Should your proposal be selected to receive an NCAA Graduate Student Research Grant you will receive an agreement outlining the terms and conditions of the grant that will state that such expenses are prohibited. If such documentation is needed prior to submitting your proposal, please contact research@ncaa.org.



Technology purchases.

Q1. If I purchase a laptop or tablet through this grant, am I able to keep it at the end of the grant period?

Q2. I need a digital video recorder to gather data for my study that costs more than \$1,500, can I request funding for that?

A1. Yes. Research equipment purchased through the grant program vests with the graduate student at the end of the grant term. This expectation is listed in the grant's terms and conditions agreement.

A2. Hardware requests may exceed \$1,500 if necessary to gather data (e.g., digital video camera). Funding for basic hardware (e.g., laptop/desktop computer for basic statistical software or word processing) is capped at \$1,500. Please see sample budgets.

Transcription services. Can grant funding cover transcription costs?

Yes.

Tuition. Can student tuition be subsidized with this grant?

Yes. Grantees may request up to \$2,000 for educational expenses. This can cover tuition, student fees, books, dissertation filing fees, etc.

METHODS

NCAA data. Would the NCAA be able to provide data as part of a grant?

No, the NCAA will not be providing data to the grant recipients. Graduate student researchers will need to use external data or publicly available data.

Participant lists. If funded, will the NCAA assist me in identifying and/or contacting study participants?

No. Grantees are expected to identify and recruit their own study participants and will not be assisted in this process by the NCAA.

Student-athlete compensation. I have student-athletes participating in my study—can I compensate them (monetarily or with gift cards)?

Compensating study participants is allowable according to NCAA bylaws.

NCAA Division I Bylaw 16.11.1.5.2 Institution-Based Research Studies states that: “A student-athlete may receive compensation from an institution for participating in a research study involving only student-athletes, provided:

- (a) The study is initiated and conducted by a faculty member at a member institution; and
- (b) The study and compensation arrangements are approved by the institutional review board of the faculty member’s institution consistent with policies applicable to other institution-based research studies.”

NCAA Division II 16.11.1.6 Research Studies states that “A student-athlete may receive compensation for participation in institutional and noninstitutional (e.g., NCAA) research studies. Such compensation shall be consistent with the going rate for compensation offered in studies involving nonathlete populations. The study may not be sponsored or conducted by an institution’s athletics department, and compensation may not be provided or determined by the athletics department. There shall be no indication that the student-athlete expressly or implicitly endorses any commercial product or service.”

NCAA Division III Bylaw 16.11.1.10.2 Institution-Based Research Studies states that “A student-athlete may receive compensation from an institution for participating in a research study involving only student-athletes, provided:

- (a) The study is initiated and conducted by a faculty member at an NCAA member institution; and
- (b) The study and compensation arrangements are approved by the institutional review board of the faculty member’s institution.”

If the principal investigator on the study is a graduate student, and not a faculty member, compensation is still permitted provided that it is for participation in an institutional study with faculty oversight and the rest of the criteria of the bylaw is met.

If this IRB-approved study involves both student-athletes and nonathletes on campus—each must be compensated at the same rate for study participation.