

## 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've 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.

**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 recommended.

## 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 an NCAA member institution are eligible for grant funding, regardless of their research site/population.

**First-year graduate students.** I just started my PhD program, so I'm 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 or master's thesis or a publishable manuscript. As long as 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'm funded?

The NCAA requires proof of IRB approval (if necessary) prior to disbursing grant funds, but such approval is not required at the time of proposal submission. However, having that approval in hand will certainly expedite the disbursement of any funds should you receive the grant.

**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 as long as you are continuing to analyze the data and/or write up your findings throughout 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 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 NCAA membership status are able to receive grant funding from the NCAA. Those with provisional or reclassification 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 a contract outlining the terms and conditions of the grant that will state that such expenses are prohibited. If such documentation is needed in the proposal phase, please contact Lydia Bell at [lbell@ncaa.org](mailto:lbell@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 \$1,000, can I request funding for that?

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

A2. Hardware requests may exceed \$1,000 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 \$1,000. Please see sample budget.

**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 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 16.11.1.6.2 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 Bylaw 16.02.3 permits student-athlete compensation. This bylaw notes that receipt of a benefit by student-athletes is not a violation of NCAA legislation if it is demonstrated that the same benefit is generally available to the institution's students or to a particular segment of the student body (e.g., international students, underrepresented students) determined on a basis unrelated to athletics ability.