

NCAA Innovations in Research and Practice Grant Program Frequently Asked Questions

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SUBMISSION PROCESS

Additional materials. I have additional supplemental materials beyond what was outlined in the Call for Proposals, can I submit them?

In the preliminary proposal phase, reviewers will review only the one-page preliminary proposal.

For those invited to submit a final proposal, reviewers will review the proposal narrative and the required supplemental materials, so there is no guarantee that they will review additional materials; however, submitting additional information will not disqualify a final application. Please merge ALL final proposal materials into the **single** PDF.

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 Innovations Grant application. Necessary changes to an application can be made until the submission window closes (12 p.m. Eastern time; Monday, May 5 2025). Any changes or additions will replace the data previously entered.



RESEARCH

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

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

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

The NCAA does not have restrictions regarding who submits the grant proposal, nor is authorization required from an institutional official. However, applicants invited to submit a final proposal are strongly encouraged to follow the grant application protocol established by their institution, department and/or college.

Multiple submissions. Is it allowable to submit more than one proposal from our institution?

Yes. Please note that only one proposal can be submitted per "Program Hub User." Thus, if more than one proposal is being submitted by an institution, please note that there will need to be more than one "Program Hub User" with a profile in the Program Hub.

Project director submission. Does the project director submit the application or does it have to be an institutional official?

There are no restrictions regarding who can upload a proposal - this can include a project director, administrative assistant or institutional grants officer. However, only one proposal can be submitted per "Program Hub User." Thus, if an institution is submitting more than one proposal, please note that there will need to be more than one "User" with a profile in the Program Hub.

ELIGIBILITY

Consultant or volunteer. I am a consultant or volunteer at an NCAA institution - can I still apply for the funding?

The project director must be directly employed by an NCAA institution. However, additional project team members may have an affiliation external to the university.

Institutional Review Board (IRB) Approval. Do we have to have IRB approval before submitting the proposal, or can we submit our project to the IRB after we are funded?

The NCAA requires proof of IRB approval for funded projects, but such approval is not required at the time of proposal submission.

Medical school employee. I am a researcher/faculty member/clinician at an NCAA institution's medical school (e.g., Indiana University School of Medicine), can I still apply?

Yes.



Non-NCAA affiliates. Do project directors need to be directly employed by an NCAA institution? Can non-NCAA organizations be a partner if they work with an appropriately affiliated project team?

The project director must be directly employed by an NCAA institution. However, additional project team members may have an affiliation external to the university.

Probationary period. Our institution's athletics program is in an NCAA probationary period - can we 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. Our institution is currently a provisional member of the NCAA. May we still apply?

No. Only institutions with active NCAA membership status are able to receive grant funding from the NCAA. Those members in the provisional process are not eligible for grant funding.

Student leads. Can students be lead project directors on these grants?

Yes, however, most funded projects require institutional IRB approval. If your institution requires that a faculty or staff member serve as lead investigator on each IRB application, please list the designated faculty/staff member as the project director. Additionally, graduate student applicants should be aware that if not funded during this highly competitive process, the NCAA also offers graduate student research [grants](#) on an annual basis.

University foundation. Is it allowable for us to apply for this grant through our university's foundation? In other words, the applicant would be the University Foundation, rather than the university itself.

Yes.

BUDGET

Fringe benefits. Is it permissible for the proposed budget to include fringe benefits related to personnel costs?

Yes, there are no restrictions on funding benefits for personnel.



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

Grantees receive an agreement outlining the grant's terms and conditions that states that such expenses are prohibited. If documentation is needed in the proposal phase, please refer to the statement regarding the prohibition of such funding outlined in the 2025 Innovations Grant Call for Proposals.

Technology purchases. Can funds be spent to purchase technology equipment to be used by student-athletes as part of the study or does this pertain to only the equipment used by the researcher to complete the project?

Yes, this would be permissible as long as it is equipment needed for the execution of the study.

Transcription services. Can grant funding cover transcription costs?

Yes. The only expenses this grant funding will not cover are indirect costs, living expenses, conference registration fees and conference travel.

Tuition. Can student tuition be subsidized with this grant (e.g., graduate student tuition waiver)?

Yes, that is an allowable cost.

METHODS

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

No, the NCAA will not provide data to grant recipients. Grantees will need to use external data or publicly available NCAA 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. We have student-athletes participating in our study - can we compensate them (monetarily or with gift cards)?

Compensating study participants is allowable according to NCAA bylaws across divisions (NCAA Division I Bylaw 16.11.1.5.2; NCAA Division II Bylaw 16.11.1.6; and NCAA Division III Bylaw 16.11.1.10.2). The legislation in all divisions allows compensation to student-athletes given the studies are not conducted by the athletics department and the compensation is the same as any non-athlete's compensation and determined on a basis unrelated to athletics ability. Additional compensation parameters are outlined in the specific divisional bylaws.

Target population. Does the targeted population of students have to be affiliated with the project team's institution or is it okay for them to come from other schools?

The aim of the grant is to benefit current student-athletes at NCAA institutions. With that in mind, as long as the students in the target population are currently enrolled at NCAA institution(s) it would be in line with the aims of the grant.

TIMELINE

Grant cycle. What is the grant cycle for the NCAA Innovations in Research and Practice Grant?

The term of the grant can be listed as September 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027, as we recognize that many institutions require grant cycles to be at the first and last date of the month.

Project end date. Is there any flexibility in the end date of your program?

No. All final reports must be submitted to the NCAA by June 30, 2027.

