Mennonite College of Nursing
New Investigator Grant

Introduction

The purpose of the Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN) New Investigator award is to support new investigators in the establishment of a program of research. Research is defined as:

A formal procedure, which contributes to the expansion of basic knowledge or applies such knowledge to the solution of problems in society or exemplifies creative expression in a specific field of study. The results of research to be recognized by this program must be communicated to professionals outside the university through a peer review process in a manner appropriate to the discipline.

Two types of grant activities are supported:

1. Research Project Grants are designed to support quality scholarly undertakings of the faculty, such as, pilot or small-scale studies that may or may not provide a basis for pursuing external support.
2. Grant Development Projects awards are intended to provide faculty with funds to develop research grant applications for submission for external funding and/or to complement awards obtained from an external agency.

Completed applications are due to the College Research Coordinator by February 1st of each year.

Eligibility

New investigators are those MCN faculty who have received less than $1,000 from other sources for their research. Faculty may collaborate on grant applications, however, the principal investigator must be a new investigator. All faculty members, including full-time and part-time, tenure-line and non-tenure members are eligible to apply.

If awarded a grant, faculty members who will not be returning to the University in the Fall following the grant award must resign their grant.

Evaluation Criteria

Eligible investigators are to be evaluated by the following criteria:

1. Project Description: The project must clearly define the research problem (hypothesis/questions/goals) and describe the methodology that will be used to address the problem. The objectives must be clearly stated.
2. Professional Outcomes: The product/work/results are appropriate, realistic, achievable, and can be presented in the Professional Outcome Form.

3. Importance to Discipline: The proposed research must define activities that will make a significant impact on the field of study (e.g., new approach, creative solution, improved strategy).

4. Relationship to Long-Term Research Agenda: The proposed research should be part of a long-range research agenda.

5. For Grant Development Projects, add a section addressing Funding Potential: The likelihood that the proposed project will lead to an external proposal or contribute to an externally funded program.

Proposals will be ranked based on the following point system:

**Research Project Grants**

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Project Descriptions</td>
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<td>Proposal Outcomes</td>
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<td>Importance to Discipline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relationship to Long-term Research Agenda</td>
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**Grant Development Projects**

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<td>Project Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposal Outcomes</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>Importance to Discipline</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relationship to Long-term Research Agenda</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding Potential</td>
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**Proposal Format**

A. Format
   The proposal should be prepared using 11 or 12 character/inch font, with one-inch margins. Please use a separate heading for each component of the proposal and place material in the order listed below.
B. Required Components

1. **Cover Page:** The cover page provided in this packet should be completed and placed at the beginning of the application.

2. **Abstract:** The abstract may not exceed 250 words in length and must be written in non-technical language. It should clearly describe the research problem, the methodology to be used, and the expected outcome from the proposed project.

3. **Project Description:** The project description may not exceed five single-spaced typewritten pages, excluding the references. The description should be written in such a manner that is understandable, recognizing that members of the evaluation committee are not necessarily experts in your field. You should “educate” the evaluators in this and subsequent sections by demonstrating the importance of the project to the discipline and clearly explaining the project. Please avoid overly technical terms and define other terms carefully. Appendixes may be attached (i.e., questionnaires, tables, etc.) and do not count toward the five page limit.

The project description has four parts:

Research problem
Methodology
Timeline
References

A. **Research Problem:** This section should clearly define the research problem/question to be investigated. A review of the relevant literature, structured to provide a conceptual framework converging upon the topic addressed, should be included in order to explain the significance of the research to be undertaken. The research problem, including hypotheses, research questions, and objectives to be addressed must be clearly stated.

B. **Methodology:** The methodology to be employed should be described in specific terms and clearly relate to the research problem, objectives, and expected outcome(s).

C. **Timeline:** The proposal should project a schedule of progress for the discrete parts of the project.

D. **References:** The references provides a current list of related works keyed to the project description. The bibliography should be reasonably comprehensive, but not exhaustive.

4. **Professional Outcome:** On the Professional Outcome(s) Form (required by the University Research Office) clearly define the product(s) that will be generated by this project. For a Grant Development Project, this section must include a discussion of the prospects for obtaining external funding for a proposal resulting from the grant. This explanation should include the agency or agencies to which you plan to submit a proposal, and any supporting information to demonstrate how the agency’s funding
5. Priorities are related to your project. (If appropriate, this section may also explain how the proposed project will complement a currently funded grant).

6. Importance to the Discipline: Describe how this proposed research will make a significant contribution to the field of study. This section may not exceed half of a single-spaced page.

7. Relationship to Long-Term Research Agenda: Describe how this proposed research will contribute to your long-term research agenda. This section should not exceed half of a single-spaced page.

8. For Grant Development Projects: Funding Potential of the Project: The applicant should explain how this proposal will lead to the development of an external proposal and acquisition of external funding. The applicant should list in specific terms the steps anticipated in seeking external funding, including a list of funding sources where the proposal will be submitted.

9. Complete and current vita

10. Budget page: **The maximum budget request is $1,000.** The budget should be carefully developed. Contact the Mennonite College of Nursing Financial Assistant to the Dean, Diane Folken (8-2247) with questions.