



Cal Poly Internal Funding Grant Program

Continuing Initiatives / Teacher-Scholar Mini Grant Program

Submission Deadline: Thursday, October 8, 2026 @ NOON PDT

Synopsis of the Program

The [Internal Funding Grant Program](#) is supported by funds from the CSU Chancellor's Office and Cal Poly's Office of the Provost and aims to support faculty engagement through three separate funding options. The program solicits proposals that articulate with any area of the teacher-scholar model.

- [Continuing Initiatives / Teacher Scholar Mini Grant \(TSMG\)](#): The primary focus of this track is to provide “bridge” and/or “closure” funding for all types of research, scholarly, and creative activities. Fundable areas include, but are not limited to: basic or applied research; artistic, archival, creative, or design products; peer-reviewed publications; professional workshop convenings; operational bridge funding for ongoing projects; developing or instituting curricular or co-curricular programs; program assessment; innovative practice; collaborative engagement; or community-engaged teaching and learning.

Please see the Internal Funding_2027-28 RFP for eligibility details.

Funding Details

Each branch of the Internal Funding program has its own budget restrictions. *Carefully review the appropriate info sheet and ensure that the budget submitted meets the stated requirements.*

Failure to submit an appropriate budget will result in proposals being returned without review. (Please submit the provided budget template and confirm that all fields match what is entered into the InfoReady application.)

- Continuing Initiatives / TSMG: Base budget requests may not exceed \$10,000. Additional requests to support Undergraduate and Graduate students are available and discussed in further detail below.
- Faculty compensation. Faculty can request up to \$6,000 in additional compensation per faculty member, with no more than \$9,000 of additional compensation across all faculty co-PIs in any proposal. Do not list staff as co-PIs; they may be included in the temporary personnel section. Total amount received may be less after benefits.

You may request additional compensation for the months when you plan to do the work directly related to the funding. Co-PI salary should be listed in field “non-PI Faculty in Project (\$)”. Even though you may be equal partners, please select one person as PI and the other(s) will be co-PI/Non-PI.



- Assigned time. The maximum amount that can be requested is 2 Weighted Teaching Units (WTUs) per project and per person in an award cycle. Please use the estimated replacement rate of \$3,887 for budgeting assigned time.
- Support for student researchers (undergraduate and graduate). Student support is an allowable expense and may be included in a proposal budget. Any proposal can also request an additional student supplement (beyond the maximum allowable budget) of \$4,000 for Undergraduate student support and additional \$4,000 for Graduate student support.
- Support for temporary personnel. This may include staff, consultants and/or collaborators. Non-faculty (unit 3) employees (excluding MPPs) must demonstrate how their work on this internally funded program falls outside their regular position duties.
- Supplies, consumables, services (like printing and publishing), and equipment.
- Travel. Travel may be requested to conduct research, present findings at a conference (including conference registration and virtual attendance) or attend professional development convenings. Travel must contribute to the proposed scope of work (e.g., required workshops, training, etc.). Travel reimbursement rates will be based on Cal Poly travel guidelines and must adhere to any restrictions in place at the time of travel.
- Incentives for participation in human subjects research. Participant incentives must meet CSU and State fiscal requirements. Contact Research Integrity and Compliance and (research-compliance@calpoly.edu) in advance of submitting your proposal if your project includes incentives so we can assist you in making sure your use of incentives is compliant. All funds awarded must be used for the specific approved purposes and may not be converted to other uses without authorization by the Office of the Associate Vice Provost of Research.

Proposal Submission

- Proposals are due Thursday, October 8, 2026 @ NOON PDT. **No late submissions will be accepted.** Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their proposals early. (Standard practice is 24 hours ahead of deadline).
- From the InfoReady homepage, select "Log In" in the upper right-hand corner, and click on the blue "Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Login" button. Use your Cal Poly credentials to log in. Then click on the 2027-2028 Continuing Initiatives/Teacher-Scholar Mini Grant Program link. You will then be able to submit an application. Please save your application, as you go.
- If you have questions regarding this request for proposals, contact research@calpoly.edu. You may also visit our [website](#).



Application Requirements

The proposal should be written for reviewers who are not experts in the applicant's specific field. It is incumbent upon the applicant to write their proposal so that their non-disciplinary colleagues can judge the merit of their proposals. If involving students, please explain how the work is educationally beneficial to students.

Proposals will be submitted through InfoReady. Please refer to the InfoReady template for all application fields. Please note, sections have maximum word limits. Please remember that you will apply by entering data into InfoReady text fields as described below (rather than a single PDF proposal). We have provided instructions for key aspects of the application below:

- **Proposal Abstract** (250-word limit): Introduce the proposed work.
- **Expected Major Goals and Outcomes** (1000-word limit): Project narrative should include goals and objectives, methodology, and theoretical justification. Also indicate here the scholarly significance including the impact on student learning and involvement in research. Measures that can be used to evaluate the success of your project should also be included.
- **Project timeline** (250-word limit): The grant period will be July 1, 2027 to June 30, 2028. Outline a schedule of tasks/milestones, including in which month(s) they will be commenced/completed, and how they connect to your project objectives.
- **Assigned Time # of WTUs**: Please enter the total number of WTUs for the project. Please note that the assigned time is included in the overall total project budget and is calculated at an estimated rate of \$3,887/WTU. Please check with your department head to confirm if 0.5 or 1 WTU are options.
- **Applicant Assigned Time Semester**: Please put the semester you are taking assigned time. Please note the co-PI semester in the budget template, if applicable.
- **Additional Compensation Total Amount For Project (\$)**: Please put the total amount of additional compensation for PI and co-PI(s).
- **Support for student researchers (undergraduate and graduate)**: This support falls under the operating budget and is separate from the \$8,000 allowable student supplement. Please provide a brief description of their activities in the budget justification. Please explain how the work is educationally beneficial to students.



- **Requesting student supplement?** Projects can request up to a \$8,000 in student supplemental support - \$4,000 for both Undergrad and Graduate support. If requesting this, please fill out the Student Supplement Justification (500 words).
- **Support for temporary personnel:** This may include consultants and/or collaborators (non-Cal Poly employees). Provide description of temporary personnel in budget justification.
- **Total travel expenses:** Please input total amount (\$). Travel to conduct research as allowed by any restrictions in place at the time of travel. Conference travel is permitted, and all travel should meet [Cal Poly travel guidelines](#).
- **Incentives for Research Participants** (amount): Incentives for research subjects must meet CSU and State fiscal requirements.
- **Budget Justification (500 words):** Please provide brief justifications/descriptions for each budget line item in your application. Line items should be clearly related to the Project Abstract. Line items requiring justification may include: Assigned Time; additional compensation; Travel; temporary personnel support; incentives for research subjects; student research assistants; student travel; projected printing/publishing costs; other costs such as research-related hosting/hospitality; etc.
- **Project Budget Template:** Applicants are required to submit the provided budget template and upload it Supporting Documents section in the InfoReady application. **Please confirm that the budget template matches the fields entered in the InfoReady application.**
- **Citations & Other Grant Support:**
 - Citations or references.
 - List of former, current, or pending support for this or related work, the sources and amount awarded, scholarly products resulting from the support. If you have been previously supported by a Cal Poly Internal Funding Program (RSCA and/or TSMG), results and outcomes must be described.
 - *Only one document is allowed to be uploaded in this section. Please combine into one PDF or Word document.
- **Supplemental Materials** (2-page limit):
 - Graphs, tables, figures, photographs, etc. that support your application. This upload may not exceed 2 pages. **If more than 2 pages are uploaded, only the first 2 pages will be reviewed, and the proposal will be penalized.**



- **Curriculum Vitae:** Provide a current curriculum vitae for the PI and all Co-PIs. Use NSF biographical sketch style from Science CV, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv/> Note: If a collaborator will be unfunded but will play a Co-PI role, please list them as a Co-PI in your application and include their CV. For purposes of Continuing Initiatives-TSMG, we define a collaborator as personnel with a designated and specific role and a co-PI as personnel who shares responsibility for the overall direction of the project. PIs, co-PIs and collaborators can be paid or unpaid. Please direct any ScienCV questions to the NIH Help Desk: NLMSciencv@mail.nih.gov

Review criteria

Proposals will be evaluated according to standardized criteria, including relevance to the teacher-scholar approach; intellectual merit; transformative potential; identified goals and metrics institutional or otherwise; feasibility; and benefit to student engagement (for student supplements). Proposals may develop innovative classroom pedagogy, techniques, programs, or policies. Student supplements to funded projects will be granted provided the impacts from student engagement are clearly described and appropriate to the scope of work outlined in the proposal.

Competitive proposals will provide:

- 1) articulation with one or more areas of the teacher-scholar model;
- 2) well written narrative detailing the project and its potential impact;
- 3) clear and concise scope of work;
- 4) budget within funding limits;
- 5) budget justification;
- 6) timeline for completion;
- 7) statement on benefit to student engagement (if supplement is requested).

To ensure proposals are equitably reviewed, the committee uses a review model based on full-time equivalent (FTE) faculty across the six colleges, ensuring proposals are reviewed against other proposals in the same college. Each proposal is reviewed by three reviewers with one reviewer from the PI's college. Please note that the Cal Poly Internal Funding Program is highly competitive due to funding limitations, and it is possible that high quality proposals will not be funded.

In accordance with external funding agencies, such as NSF, NIH, PRF, DoD, DOE and others, any use of AI should be readily disclosed in the proposal. Original writing takes precedence and offers maximum value to a reviewer. Proposals and topics found to have content or sections substantially developed by AI will be subject to reduced scores and in some cases will be returned without review. All PIs agree to have their proposals evaluated by AI review programs to be deemed eligible for funding. Submission of your proposal to the Internal Funding program constitutes permission to submit your proposal to AI review programs.



Continuing Initiatives-TSMG Rating Definitions

Intellectual merit (5 pts)

- What is the potential for the proposed activity to advance knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields?
- To what extent do the proposed activities suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts?
- Is the plan for carrying out the proposed activities well-reasoned, well-organized, and based on a sound rationale?
- Does the plan incorporate a mechanism to assess success?

1	<i>Poor.</i> Deficient in key areas for proposal evaluation or proposal does not provide a clear plan for producing results/knowledge.
2	<i>Fair.</i> Inadequate information provided to evaluate key areas, or proposal is unlikely to produce meaningful/transformative results.
3	<i>Good.</i> Adequate information provided to evaluate all areas and can produce meaningful/transformative creative, scholarly, or scientific contribution.
4	<i>Very Good.</i> Clear information provided to evaluate all areas of proposal, showing that results will likely produce meaningful/transformative creative, scholarly, or scientific contribution.
5	<i>Excellent.</i> Information provided exceeds all criteria necessary to evaluate all areas of proposal, showing that contribution(s) significantly advance creative, scholarly, or scientific contribution.

Objectives & Methodology (4 pts)

- Are the objectives specific, measurable, realistic, and feasible?
- Have the goals been clearly articulated in the timeline?
- Are measures included that can be used to evaluate success, if applicable?
- Are the proposed methods appropriate to the scope of work?

1	<i>Poor.</i> Objectives and methods are lacking. Goals are not specific, measurable, realistic, and feasible. Measures to evaluate success are not described
2	<i>Fair.</i> Objectives and methods are presented. Goals are not specific, measurable, realistic, and feasible. Measures to evaluate success are not well described
3	<i>Good.</i> Objectives and methods are sound. Goals are specific, measurable, realistic, and feasible. Measures to evaluate success are described



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| 4 | <i>Excellent.</i> Objectives and methods are sound and well described. Goals are specific, measurable, realistic, and feasible. Measures to evaluate success are clearly articulated. |
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Broader Impacts (5 pts)

- What is the potential for the proposed activity to benefit society or advance desired societal outcomes?
- To what extent do the proposed activities advance lasting institutional or disciplinary goals?
- To what extent does the project contribute to student-related outcomes?
- To what extent does the project contribute to the PI/co-PI's professional development?

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| 1 | <i>Poor.</i> Deficient in key areas for proposal evaluation or proposal does not provide a clear plan for producing results/knowledge |
| 2 | <i>Fair.</i> Inadequate information provided to evaluate key areas, or proposal is unlikely to produce meaningful/transformational results. |
| 3 | <i>Good.</i> Adequate information provided to evaluate all areas and can produce meaningful/transformational creative, scholarly, or scientific contribution. |
| 4 | <i>Very Good.</i> Clear information provided to evaluate all areas of proposal, showing that results will likely produce meaningful/transformational creative, scholarly, or scientific contribution |
| 5 | <i>Excellent.</i> Information provided exceeds all criteria necessary to evaluate all areas of proposal, showing that contribution(s) significantly advance creative, scholarly, or scientific contribution. |
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Feasibility (4 pts)

- Does the proposed research include a plan to accomplish the proposed scope of work?
- Are there adequate resources available to the Principal Investigator (PI) either at Cal Poly or through collaborations to carry out the proposed activities?
- Is the timeline appropriate to the proposed scope of work?

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| 1 | <i>Poor.</i> Deficient in plan, resources or qualifications to achieve stated aims. |
| 2 | <i>Fair.</i> Inadequate information provided to evaluate plan, resources or qualifications to achieve stated aims. |
| 3 | <i>Good.</i> Adequate information provided to evaluate plan, resources or qualifications to achieve stated aims. |
| 4 | <i>Excellent.</i> Articulate and relevant information provided to evaluate all areas of plan, resources and qualifications to achieve stated aims. |
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Budget Justification (3 points)

- Is the requested funding clearly justified?
- Does it meet the scope of Continuing Initiatives-TSMG funding?
- Have justifications been provided for the use of assigned time, additional compensation, need for supplies and travel, support for student research assistant salaries, plus any other types of expenses that will be needed?

0	Funding <i>does not meet</i> Continuing Initiatives-TSMG scope, such as a request for a purpose fully disallowed by the RFP.
1	Funding is <i>not</i> well-justified but meets all components of Continuing Initiatives- TSMG scope, or part of the funding justification is disallowed by the RFP.
2	Funding is <i>adequately</i> justified, meets all components of Continuing Initiatives- TSMG scope, and fully allowed by the RFP.
3	Funding is <i>strongly</i> justified, meets all components of Continuing Initiatives- TSMG scope, and fully allowed by the RFP.

Relevance to the Teacher-Scholar Model (4 pts)

- Do the proposed activities align with a Teacher-Scholar approach?
- Does this proposal advance discovery, integration, application, and/or engagement?

1	<i>Poor.</i> Deficient in advancing the Teacher-Scholar model.
2	<i>Fair.</i> Inadequate information provided to evaluate how this proposal contributes to the Teacher-Scholar model
3	<i>Good.</i> Adequate information provided to evaluate the proposal's potential contribution to the Teacher-Scholar model
4	<i>Excellent.</i> Articulate and relevant information provided to evaluate all areas of proposal, showing that contribution(s) significantly advance the Teacher-Scholar model

Other Review Criteria

- Eligibility Verification
 - PI(s) is/are qualified (Y/N)