

WELCOME

Office of Research Internal Funding Opportunities

Recording in progress during the presentation.
We will take questions after we stop recording.
Thank you for joining us.

OFFICE OF RESEARCH

Internal Funding Grant Program 2027-28

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Chair of Grants Review Committee

Faculty Fellow for Office of Research



CAL POLY
Office of Research

NEXT MONTH

Please join us for the Research Reception!

Wednesday October 21, 2026 at 3:00-5:00pm

Partners Pavilion 19A-0127

Faculty and staff are invited to join the Interim Associate Vice Provost of Research Dean Wendt as we celebrate and recognize research, scholarship, and creative activity across campus. Drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be provided.



CAL POLY

INTERNAL FUNDING GRANT PROGRAM

Three tracks, supported by funds from the CSU Chancellor's Office and Cal Poly's Office of the Provost.

1

New Initiatives/
Research, Scholarly & Creative Activities (RSCA) Grant Program

2

Continuing Initiatives/
Teacher-Scholar Mini (TSMG) Grant Program

3

Proposal Development Program (PDP)

All applications due Thursday, October 8, 2026 at Noon PDT via [InfoReady](#)



INTERNAL FUNDING GRANT PROGRAM

You may submit one proposal to each funding option (as PI or co-PI).

Project topic and scope must be different for each proposal.

Track	Budget
1. New Initiatives/ RSCA	up to \$28K
2. Continuing Initiatives/ TSMG	up to \$18K incl. student supplements
3. PDP	up to 3 WTUs

1. NEW INITIATIVES/ RSCA

The primary focus of this track is to provide “seed” funding for all types of research, scholarly and creative activities. This includes, but is not limited to, empirical and theoretical research, applied design and development, scholarship of teaching and learning, writing of books, and the production of art and other creative activities. Proposed projects must be related to the generation of **new** knowledge, and it is incumbent upon the principal investigator (PI) to clarify these potential contributions.

From 2021-2025, RSCA received a total 293 proposals, of which 60 faculty were funded ~ 1.3M.

That funding resulted in 26 faculty generating 90 external proposal submissions with 19 individuals receiving ~ 5.7M.



TYPES OF PROJECTS FOR NEW INITIATIVES/RSCA

- All types of research, scholarly and creative activities.
- Proposed projects must be related to the generation of **NEW** knowledge and learning.
- This includes, but is not limited to, empirical and theoretical research, applied design and development, scholarship of teaching and learning, writing of books, and the production of art.
- Grants will not be awarded for instructional improvement, course development, or evaluation. If the scholarship is pedagogically focused, *which is a fundable research type*, **it is incumbent upon the applicant to make this clear.**

2. CONTINUING INITIATIVES/ TEACHER-SCHOLAR (TSMG)

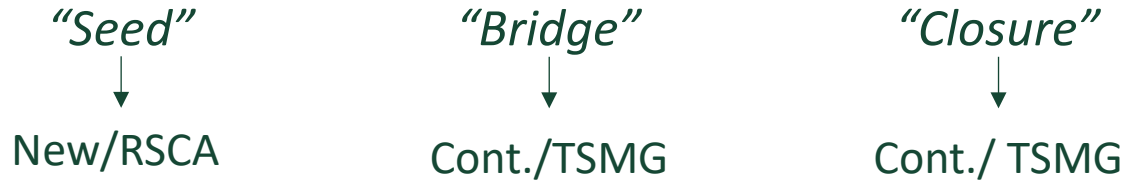
- The primary focus of this track is to provide “**bridge**” and/or “**closure**” funding for all types of research, scholarly, and creative activities. Fundable areas include, but are not limited to: basic or applied research; artistic, archival, creative, or design products; peer-reviewed publications; 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.
- Expands internal funding to support our institutional commitment to advancing discovery, integration, application, and engagement in the context of teaching and learning (eg. curriculum & pedagogy).

TYPES OF PROJECTS FOR CONTINUING INITIATIVES/ TSMG

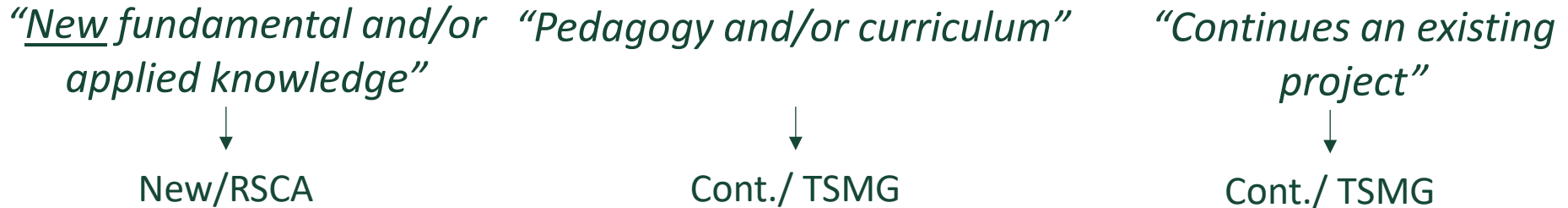
- All types of research, scholarly, and creative activities.
- This includes, but is not limited to, empirical and theoretical research, applied design and development, scholarship of teaching and learning, writing of books, and the production of art.
- Grants may be awarded for instructional improvement, course development, or evaluation. *For these awards, it is exceedingly valuable to demonstrate how the curriculum will be expanded beyond Cal Poly. It is also important to provide evidence of knowledge & training in the proposed field of pedagogy.*

WHICH PROGRAM SHOULD I APPLY FOR?

What type of funding do I need?



What does my project create?



3. PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (PDP)

- Intended to support the teacher-scholar model by providing up to 3 WTUs of assigned time, along with specific proposal revision guidance from the Hanover Research group, to support the revision and resubmission of one externally funded research proposal. Statistics indicate that incorporating feedback from grant consultants increases the odds of success when applying for external funding.
- Faculty at primarily undergraduate institutions must balance competing demands with relatively high teaching loads. Faculty consistently report time constraints as a barrier to their ongoing engagement in deep and meaningful scholarly pursuits.
- Provides internal funding to support our institutional commitment to advancing all types of research, scholarly, and creative activities, and the acquiring of external funding required to maintain sustain programs.
- The WTUs are intended to be awarded only to the applicant (no Co-PIs).

USE OF NEW INITIATIVES/RSCA FUNDS

Please refer to budget template.

- Faculty assigned time (Max. 6 WTUs maximum - provided buyout is a planning guideline)
- Additional compensation (Max. \$9,000 per project and per individual - *subject to be reduced based on actual WTU buyout*)
- Support for student assistants
- Support for temporary personnel (e.g., consultants, collaborators)
- Supplies, services, and equipment
- Travel to conduct research. **No conference travel is permitted**
- Incentives for research subjects



USE OF CONTINUING INITIATIVES/TSMG FUNDS

Please refer to budget template.

- Faculty assigned time (Max. 2 WTUs maximum - *provided buyout is a planning guideline*)
- Additional compensation (Max. \$6,000 per project and per individual - *subject to be reduced based on actual WTU buyout*)
- Support for student assistants
- Support for temporary personnel (e.g., consultants, collaborators)
- Supplies, services, and equipment
- Travel to conduct research. **Conference travel is permitted**
- Incentives for research subjects



CONTINUING INITIATIVES/TSMG: STUDENT SUPPLEMENT

Student supplement (up to \$8,000)- **for Continuing/TSMG track only*

- In addition to the operational budget (up to \$10,000), faculty can request
 - One undergraduate student supplement of up to \$4,000
 - One graduate student supplement of up to \$4,000
 - Funding for graduate supplement provided by Graduate Education
- The student supplement can support one or more students but must not exceed \$8,000 across all students and must directly connect student participation to learn-by-doing.
- Student supplement only supports the **fellowship** (*stipend*) model, not employment.

PROGRAM DIFFERENCES	New Initiatives/RSCA	Continuing Initiatives/ TSMG	Proposal Development (PDP)
Amount	Up to \$28,000.	Base budget: Up to \$10,000 Plus 4K for undergraduate support and 4K for graduate support	
Available faculty compensation	▪ 6 WTUs ▪ \$9,000 add. comp.	• 2 WTUs • \$6,000 per faculty (max \$9,000/w co-PIs)	• 3 WTUs
Requires tenured faculty to show that this research is a <i>new</i> scholarly direction. (<i>“Seed”</i>)	✓		
Can be a source of ongoing funding by augmenting currently funded projects to expand the scope of work. (<i>“Bridge and/or Closure”</i>)		✓	
Funds the development of teaching, classroom, or curricular innovations.		✓	
Allows conference travel.		✓	
Provides add comp and assigned time to submit proposals to external agency.			✓
Access to external research consultants for proposal support.			✓

NEW INITIATIVES/ RSCA REVIEW CRITERIA

Standardized criteria

- Intellectual merit (5 pts)
- Objectives & Methodology (4 pts)
- Broader Impacts (5 pts)
- Feasibility (4 pts)
- Budget justification (3 pts)
- Benefit to Cal Poly (2 pts)
- Benefits beyond the University (2 pts)

Additional criteria

- Eligibility Verification
 - ❑ PI(s) is/are qualified (Y/N)
 - ❑ Change in focus (for tenured)
- Potential to attract future funding (+1)
- Support of fields and disciplines with minimal access to external funding (+1)
- Involvement of students (+1)

CONTINUING INITIATIVES/ TSMG REVIEW CRITERIA

Standardized criteria

- Intellectual merit (5 pts)
- Objectives & Methodology (4 pts)
- Broader Impacts (5 pts)
- Feasibility (4 pts)
- Budget justification (3 pts)
- Relevance to Teacher-Scholar model (4 pts)

Additional criteria

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

PDP REVIEW CRITERIA

Standardized criteria (PDP)

- Revision plan (5 pts)
- Intellectual merit of project under revision (5 pts)
- Broader impacts of project under revision (5 pts)
- Feasibility of proposal when revised (5 pts)

RSCA AWARD DATA OVER LAST 3 YEARS

College	Instructional Faculty FTE 2026-27	2024-25 \$	2024-25 # Proposals	2025-26 \$	2025-26 # Proposals	2026-27 \$	2026-27 # Proposals
BCSM	24.89%	\$71,900	4	\$69,502	4	\$71,953	4
CAED	8.12%	\$18,000	2	\$18,000	1	\$35,946	2
CAFES	10.69%	\$17,976	1	\$35,772	2	\$44,965	3
CENG	20.56%	\$99,515	7	\$52,540	3	\$62,802	4
CLA	27.54%	\$77,868	6	\$79,382	5	\$89,476	5
OCOB	7.37%	\$19,200	1	\$30,500	2	\$0	0
Library	.84%	\$8,910	1	\$3,726	1	\$0	0
TOTALS	100%	\$313,369	18*	\$289,422	17*	\$305,142	17*

*Please note, some projects have PIs and Co-PIs from multiple colleges. For these instances, each college involved in a single proposal receives a count in the chart above. The totals in the proposal column reflect the total awards per cycle.

TSMG AWARD DATA OVER LAST 3 YEARS

College	Instructional Faculty FTE 2026-27	2024-25 \$	2024-25 # Proposals	2025-26 \$	2025-26 # Proposals	2026-27 \$	2026-27 # Proposals
BCSM	24.89%	\$ 113,760	9	\$55,192	4	\$97,616	7
CAED	8.12%	-	-	\$25,840	2	\$29,200	2
CAFES	10.69%	\$74,070	5	\$43,968	3	\$29,860	2
CENG	20.56%	\$ 29,112	2	\$82,246	6	\$67,220	5
CLA	27.54%	\$ 153,932	11	\$93,977	7	\$97,353	7
OCOB	7.37%	\$ 22,552	2	\$60,720	5	\$25,994	2
Library	.84%	\$ 14,502	1	-	-	\$5,000	1
TOTALS	100%	\$ 407,928	30	\$361,943	27	\$352,243	26

ALL THREE TRACKS

- Deadline to apply is Thursday, October 8, 2026 at **Noon** via InfoReady CalPoly.InfoReady4.com
- No late submissions will be accepted. PIs are strongly encouraged to submit their proposal early (Standard practice is 24 hours ahead of deadline).
- Projects run July 1, 2027-June 15, 2028. Final reports due July 1, 2028. Extensions will not be granted.
- Must include NSF biographical sketch style CV from Science CV <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv/>
- Please view the RFP, info sheets with rubric and rating definitions, budget templates, at [**research.calpoly.edu/internalfunding**](https://research.calpoly.edu/internalfunding)
- Applicants will be notified whether their proposals have been awarded by February 2027

ELIGIBILITY

Please view the Internal Funding RFP for full eligibility details for all three tracks.

- All faculty unit employees are eligible to compete for funding, including lecturers, tenure-track, and tenured faculty. Awards are provided only to those who hold a current appointment for the duration of the program (July 1, 2027 – June 30, 2028); exceptions may be granted but require review by the Office of the Associate Vice Provost of Research and the Dean of the respective college.
- This funding is intended to provide support to all faculty and lecturers at any stage of their career at Cal Poly. To be eligible to apply as a PI or co-PI, applicants must be faculty (unit 3) employees (i.e. tenure-track, tenured, or lecturer faculty). Non-faculty unit employees (i.e. MPP, staff, etc.) are not eligible to serve as PIs or co-PIs.
- Support for temporary personnel: non-unit 3 employees may be compensated as temporary personnel; they must demonstrate that any work on this internally funded program falls outside their regular position duties.
- You may submit **one** proposal to each funding option (as PI or co-PI). Project topic and scope must be different for each proposal.
- **Previous recipients of RSCA funding must submit evidence of external development to demonstrate eligibility.** Examples of external development include (but are not limited to): peer-reviewed publication, external funding application/award, public distribution of creative work. Please direct any questions about external development examples to research@calpoly.edu.



ELIGIBILITY, CONT.

- Applicants cannot apply to New Initiatives-RSCA program as a PI if they have received RSCA funding in the preceding **3** award cycles (2024-25 to 2026-27); i.e. the fiscal year for the original active term of the project, not the fiscal year when the PI received the notification of award. This limit does not apply to submissions as a Co-PI.
- Applicants cannot submit a proposal to the Continuing Initiatives-TSMG program as a PI if they have received TSMG funding - twice in the preceding **5** award cycles (2022-23 to 2026-27); i.e. the fiscal year for the original active term of the project, not the fiscal year when the PI received the notification of award. This limit does not apply to submissions as a Co-PI.
- **For tenured faculty applying to the New Initiatives/RSCA program**, *it is the PI's responsibility to provide the reviewers with specific information that makes the case that the proposed research is a new scholarly direction for the PI (please see the “New Scholarly Direction” section on the New Initiatives/RSCA info sheet for more information). In order to be considered for funding, you must address this or your proposal will be considered ineligible.* You may refer to your submitted CV as part of this demonstration.
- Applicants can only re-submit the same proposed project three times – one original submission and two resubmissions. Applicants must denote when they are resubmitting a proposal.
- PIs and Co-PIs are not eligible to receive a new grant if they have any past-due progress reports for previous Internal Funding awards (previously denoted as RSCA/TSMG).

USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

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.

REVIEW PROCESS

- In order 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 and scored by at least three (3) committee members, with at least one member being from the applicants' home college.

ACADEMIC SENATE GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

NAME	COLLEGE
Agarwal, Puneet	CENG
Costanzo, Philip (Chair)	BCSM
Guerra Silva, Rafael	OCOB
Jenkins, Ryan	CLA
Kolegraff, Stacy	CAED
Oppenheim, Tomas	Solano, Engineering
Pressler, Yamina	CAFES
Ramabathiran, Amuthan	CENG
Ryalls, Emily	CLA
Sadek, Mohammad	CAFES
Shields, Jennifer	CAED
Shin, Joongmin	OCOB
Wang, Cindy	OCOB
Watts, Katharine	BCSM
Wendt, Dean	Ex-Officio, Office of Research
vacant	Professional Consultative Services (PCS)



APPLICATION TIPS

- When creating your project budget, we recommend starting with the Excel budget template before filling out the budget fields in the InfoReady application. The Excel budget template has formulas in it to automatically calculate the total budget amount, ensuring you do not exceed the project maximums. The InfoReady template is created by the Chancellor's office and some of the fields are confusing- we attempted to clarify the budget fields with the creation of an Excel template. *Fill out the budget detail tab and then refer to the InfoReady inputs tab when completing the application in InfoReady.
- **Budget template must match fields entered into InfoReady.**
- We encourage increased clarity in the budget justification (payrate, hours, duration).
- The Cal Poly Student employee handbook says the allowable pay range for students is \$16.50 up to \$24.00 per hour.
- Student stipends are also an option when offering an educational opportunity.
- Faculty compensation, can be based on your hourly rate to use as a guideline. See <https://preaward.calpoly.edu/selected-sponsored-project-costs>

TIPS, CONT.

- Read the RFP and infosheets! To achieve the most possible points in the review of your application, please refer to the scoring sheet. Be strategic in addressing the RFP and allocating appropriate space to the review criteria
- Consider asking previous awardees for drafts of their proposal.
- Have your peers review your application before submitting.
- Remember that you are writing for an audience that may not have expertise in your field. If you are using technical terminology, please write your proposal so that reviewers can understand and make an informed decision.
- Clearly articulate what the research objective of the proposal is.
- Burden falls to the proposal writer to provide clarity and importance.
- Use figures, **Bold**, *italics* and underline appropriately.
- In cases of multiple PI, we would encourage tenured faculty to let newer faculty be the lead PI

CONTACT US

For assistance with these application programs, please contact:

Office of Research

- Web: <https://research.calpoly.edu/internalfunding>
- E-mail: research@calpoly.edu
- Phone: (805) 756-1508
- Building 1, Room 107

Questions?

Also join open office hours:

Friday, Sept. 11 11:30-12:00

Friday, Sept. 25, 11:30-12:00

Monday, Oct. 5, 1:30-2:30