REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Division of Research Proposal Development Program: The Blue-Green Economy

Submission Deadline: Monday, January 22, 2024, 11:59pm PST

Background

Cal Poly is committed to the teacher-scholar model in which faculty integrate excellence in teaching with excellence in research, scholarly and creative activities. The teacher-scholar model enables faculty to fulfill the CSU mission as an institution committed to quality undergraduate and graduate education, to the advancement of knowledge through basic and applied research, to the enrichment of society through creative activities in the arts and humanities, and to serving our community. The Division of Research (DoR) proactively strives to create an inclusive, equitable and diverse environment in which the professional development, scholarship, research, and creative accomplishments of faculty, students and staff are encouraged, rewarded and valued both on campus and at the local, state and national levels.

Teacher-Scholar Model

At Cal Poly, the teacher-scholar model is the embodiment of Learn by Doing for faculty. The teacher-scholar model acknowledges the importance of engagement in continuous learning in one’s field as a qualification of teaching. It enables faculty to continuously develop new knowledge, integrate scholarship into the learning process, and innovate industry-relevant curriculum. The teacher-scholar model puts students at the center of experiential learning. Students benefit from a vibrant learning environment when faculty are provided the time to pursue continued professional and intellectual growth through engagement in research, scholarship and creative activity. The Cal Poly framework for the teacher-scholar model, adopted by the Academic Senate in AS-725-11 Resolution on Defining and Adopting the Teacher-Scholar Model, is based on Ernest Boyer’s classification of scholarly activity:

- **Discovery** - the pursuit of inquiry and investigation in search of new knowledge; original research, scholarship and creative activities that advance knowledge or the state of the art.
- **Scholarship of Integration** – synthesizing knowledge and making connections across disciplines.
- **Application** – leveraging disciplinary and professional expertise to address the industry/societal issues of the times in a dynamic process.
- **Teaching/Learning** – transmitting, transforming and extending knowledge; systematic study of teaching and learning processes.

Additionally, the scholarship of engagement connects discovery, integration, application, teaching and learning to the understanding and solving of pressing social, civic, and ethical problems. For more information, visit Cal Poly’s Teacher Scholar Model webpage.
Extramural grant funding facilitates faculty engagement in research, scholarly and creative activities by supporting direct project costs, faculty compensation and release time, student research fellowships and other related expenses, while advancing our commitment to the teacher-scholar model. 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. The DoR Proposal Development Program has been designed to provide assigned time and/or additional compensation to support faculty in the preparation and submission of external funding proposals.

**Synopsis of the Program**

The proposal development program is intended to support the teacher-scholar model while fostering the production, dissemination, and implementation of scholarship aligned with campus priorities. This year, we seek proposals related to the blue-green economy that produce research over a broad range of topics at the human-environment-technology nexus. Research in the blue-green economy engages stewardship of place through an inherently interdisciplinary lens aligned with regional economic and workforce development initiatives.

The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) defines the green economy as “one that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities.” Research into the blue economy applies green economy principles to the sustainable use of marine and coastal resources for economic growth and improved livelihoods, while preserving or restoring the health of the ocean ecosystems. Research in the blue-green economy encompasses a diverse array of areas, including fisheries, marine and coastal resources, cultural values, and biodiversity. Appropriate proposal topics include (but are not limited to) fisheries, aquaculture, offshore wind and other renewable energy, marine tourism and transport, marine ecosystems, blue/environmental justice, marine pollution reduction, marine biotechnology, coastal preservation, sociotechnical systems, and community-centered research and creative activities. Proposals may examine topics of interest on a local, regional, or global scale. The program solicits proposals that make scholarly contributions through transformative knowledge production, broader impacts or both (see rubric for evaluation criteria). We do not anticipate funding proposals with only short-term impacts that do not contribute to the broader literature and programmatic findings for enhancing marine and/or coastal sustainability, human well-being, and/or stewardship of place. Appropriate project submissions will have the potential to advance knowledge through basic or applied scholarship that contributes to knowledge about the blue-green economy in innovative ways.

The program seeks to support campus initiatives by providing up to 8 WTUs of assigned time at the replacement rate and/or additional compensation along with specific proposal development guidance from the Hanover Research group. Statistics indicate that incorporating feedback from grant consultants increases the odds of success when applying for external funding. If selected for this opportunity, your materials will be shared with Hanover to initiate this process. Upon award notification, in preparation for proposal submission through the relevant DoR pre-award office, participants must also submit the Pre-Award Proposal Initiation Form. Awards made through this program must result in a fully developed blue-green economy-related proposal submission to an external sponsor that allows public dissemination of knowledge produced and allows for a minimum
of 15% F&A to be included in the sponsor budget with the expectation that Cal Poly's full F&A rate of 38.5% is used whenever allowed by the sponsor. Awardees who fail to meet the expectations of this program jeopardize their eligibility for funding from future internal award programs.

The DoR Proposal Development Program: The Blue-Green Economy aims to fund the development of up to 10 proposals across the university. The program will provide each awarded project with a maximum of either: 8 WTUs of assigned time at the replacement rate; 4 WTUs of assigned time at the replacement rate and $9,000 in additional compensation; or $9,000 in additional summer compensation. Assigned time should be taken in fall quarter 2024 and additional compensation should be taken during summer 2024. Proposals are expected to be submitted to the external sponsor by June 30, 2025.

**Eligibility**

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 current appointments in academic years 2023-2025; exceptions may be granted but require review by the Vice President of Research and the Dean of the respective college. Applicants may only apply to one Proposal Development Program in any award cycle. Awardees will remain eligible for other DoR internal programs (e.g., RSCA, Teacher-Scholar Mini Grant program). If you have any questions about eligibility requirements, please email research@calpoly.edu.

Support will be provided to develop external funding proposals that meet all the following criteria:

- Submitted to a federal, state, or nonprofit sponsor
- Submitted to a sponsor that allows public dissemination of knowledge produced
- Submitted to a sponsor that allows a minimum of 15% Facilities and Administrative costs (F&A) included in the sponsor budget
- Recognition that, if selected, materials will be shared with the Hanover Research Group to initiate the proposal review/feedback process
- Enhances goals related to research in the blue-green economy, either through transformative knowledge production, broader impact or both

**What will be funded?**

The program is intended to fund assigned time to support innovative research, scholarly and creative activities that have the potential to make a significant contribution to the blue-green economy. We do not anticipate funding proposals with only short-term impacts that do not contribute to the broader literature and programmatic findings for enhancing the blue-green economy. Proposals should be of high intellectual merit, appropriate to the identified funding mechanism, in support of Cal Poly’s teacher scholar model, blue-green economy-focused, and ideally, though not required, include student involvement. For more information, please find the evaluation rubric at the end of this document. It is incumbent upon the applicant to make these elements clear in their application.

**What review criteria will apply?**

Proposals will be evaluated according to standardized criteria, including intellectual merit; transformative potential; relevance to the blue-green economy literature, significance in contributing
to sustainability and/or coastal community research; feasibility; benefits to the candidate’s professional development; alignment with the teacher-scholar model; and the likelihood of external funding. Proposals may outline scholarly inquiry for knowledge production, test programs or policies, develop or implement programs, or otherwise specifically advance scholarship in the blue-green economy.

**What is the duration of the program?**

The DoR Proposal Development Program awards will run from June 17 - December 16, 2024. Because these dates might not capture all proposal submission deadlines, the expectation is that faculty will use release time to develop proposals and submit their proposal to an external sponsor by June 30, 2025. If this deadline is not met, individuals may not be eligible for future internal grant funding from DoR.

**Funding details.**

The maximum amount awarded is eight (8) Weighted Teaching Units (WTUs) per proposal at the replacement rate. The WTUs and/or additional compensation are intended to be awarded only to the applicant. In the case of collaborative projects, awardees may request support to be divided among no more than two applicants. Faculty can request a maximum of 8 WTUs of assigned time for use in fall quarter 2024 or, if warranted by the scope of revision and project timeline, a combination of assigned time and a maximum of $9,000 in summer 2024 additional compensation. When applying, applicants must indicate which of the following they request: 1) 8 WTUs of assigned time for use in fall 2024; 2) 4 WTUs of assigned time for use in fall 2024 and no more than $9,000 in summer additional compensation; or 3) up to $9,000 in summer additional compensation. Assigned time will be funded at the [replacement rate](#) (click on “FY Replacement Funding Chart”). The amount and type of funding requested must be justified in the application narrative.

**Application Requirements**

- Applications must be submitted by **Monday, January 22, 2024, by 11:59pm PST**. No late submissions will be accepted. Applicants may only apply to one of the two Proposal Development Programs per award cycle. Applicants can submit to either the Revise and Resubmit program OR The Blue-Green Economy program, but not both. Applications should adhere to 1” margins and at least 11-point font and must include:
  - Narrative (not to exceed 4 pages, introduction to project, background, project scope, relevance, and methods appropriate to carryout proposed activities)
  - Justification for funding request (e.g., assigned time or added compensation)
  - Citations and other grant support (current/pending)
  - Biosketch or 2-page CV
  - A list including the applicant, co-applicants, senior personnel and/or planned external collaborators
  - A list of agencies and programs with known or expected deadlines
- Applications must be submitted through the [Cal Poly InfoReady application system](#). Please refer to the InfoReady template for all application fields.
• 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. Click on the 2023-2024 Proposal Development Program: The Blue-Green Economy link at the bottom of the "Applications and Competitions for Research Support Programs" page. You will then be able to submit an application.

• Prior to review by the Review Committee, the Division of Research will route submitted proposals for approval by the applicant’s Department, Chair and Dean after these are submitted by the applicant via InfoReady. If selecting assigned time, requests will be approved via this routing. If a proposal is not approved by a Department Chair or Dean, the applicant will be notified.

Please note that like other internally funded grant programs, DoR pre-award offices are not involved in the preparation or submission of Proposal Development Program: The Blue-Green Economy.

When will I be notified?

Applicants will be notified by the beginning of spring quarter 2024 whether their proposals have been awarded.

What are the reporting requirements?

Final project reports are due upon submission of external funding proposal, on or before August 1, 2025. Awardees will be notified towards the end of the project to submit the final report via InfoReady.

Questions? Please contact research@calpoly.edu. Information about this program can also be found on our website.
Evaluation Rubric:

- **Intellectual merit: 25%**
  - 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 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 provide clear deliverables and/or a mechanism to assess success?
  - Are the proposed methods appropriate to the scope of work?

- **Broader Impacts: 25%**
  - 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 proposed project advance sustainability/coastal community goals?

- **Feasibility and Fit: 25%**
  - Are the proposed activities appropriate to the scope of work?
  - How well qualified is the individual, team, or organization to conduct the proposed activities?
  - Does the proposed research include a plan to accomplish the proposed scope of work?
  - Does this proposal advance knowledge relevant to research in the blue-green economy?

- **Alignment with Teacher-Scholar Model: 25%**
  - Does the proposed project contribute to the co/applicant’s scholarly development and/or professional goals?
  - Does the proposed project enhance discovery, integration, application, and/or teaching and learning?
  - Does the proposed project connect discovery, integration, application, teaching and learning to the understanding and solving of pressing social, civic, and ethical problems?