



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Teacher-Scholar Mini Grant Program

Submission Deadline: Thursday, April 9, 2026 by NOON PST

Background

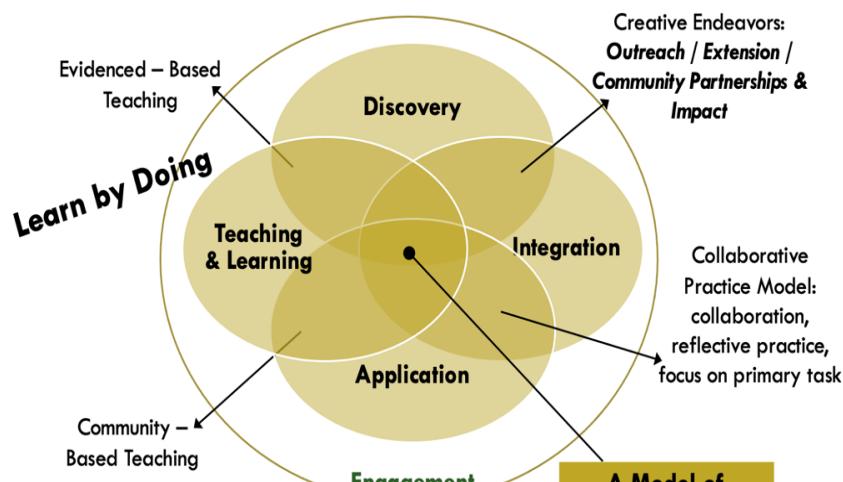
At Cal Poly, the [teacher-scholar model](#) is the embodiment of Learn by Doing for faculty. The teacher-scholar model acknowledges the importance of engagement in continuous learning in one's field as a qualification of teaching. The teacher-scholar model puts students at the center of experiential learning. The Cal Poly framework for the teacher-scholar model was adopted by the Academic Senate in [AS-725-11 Resolution on Defining and Adopting the Teacher-Scholar Model](#) and continues to guide our learn-by-doing pedagogy and our commitment to research, scholarly and creative activities. The Teacher-Scholar Mini Grant (TSMG) Program has been developed to support our institutional commitment to advancing discovery, integration, application, and engagement in the context of teaching and learning. With support from the Office of the Provost, the Teacher-Scholar Mini Grant Program provides enhanced internal funding to support all areas of teacher-scholar activities. Additional support for the Proposal Development track is funded by the Office of the President.

Synopsis of the Program

TSMGs are intended to support faculty engagement through three separate funding options. The program solicits proposals that articulate with any area of the teacher-scholar model. Please visit our [website](#) to learn more about each track.

- **Discovery & Translation:** to develop or carry out a clearly defined scope of work resulting in a scholarly product that advances 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; research proposal preparations; or operational bridge funding for ongoing projects.
- **Teaching & Learning:** to support the development of teaching, classroom, or curricular innovations. Fundable areas include but are not limited to those that develop or institute curricular or co-curricular programs; program assessment; innovative practice; collaborative engagement; or community engaged teaching and learning.
- **Proposal Development:** to support faculty in the preparation and submission of external funding proposals.

TEACHER-SCHOLAR MODEL



Graphic from Provost Jackson-Elmoore's 2020 open forum during the provost search campus visit.

Eligibility

All faculty unit employees are eligible to submit for funding, including lecturers, tenure-track, and tenured faculty; please see additional eligibility criteria below. Applicants may submit only one proposal as either PI or co-PI (i.e. applicant must pick one of three tracks to submit to). Funding can be requested to augment currently funded projects to expand the scope of work, such as funding a student researcher or other budget line item (for the Discovery & Translation and Teaching & Learning tracks). The same scope of work funded by another program will not be eligible for funding by the Teacher-Scholar Mini Grant, and it is incumbent upon the applicant to clarify current and pending funding in their request. Awards are provided only to those who hold a current appointment through the requested duration of funding; exceptions may be granted but require review by the Office of Research, Office of the Associate Vice Provost and the Dean of the respective college.

Additional Eligibility Criteria:

- To be eligible to apply, 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. MPPs are not eligible to receive compensation on these projects.
- Support for temporary personnel: non-unit 3 employees (excluding MPPs) may be compensated as temporary personnel; they must demonstrate that any work on this internally funded program falls outside their regular position duties.
- Applicants cannot submit a proposal as a PI if they have received two TSMG Mini Grant awards in the preceding five award cycles (2021-22 to 2025-26); 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.
- Applicants can only re-submit the same proposed project three times – one original submission and two resubmissions.
- PIs and Co-PIs are not eligible to receive a new grant if they have any past-due progress reports for previous TSMG awards.

Use of Artificial Intelligence

In accordance with external funding agencies, such as NSF, NIH, PRF 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 returned without review.

Start Date and Duration

Projects may begin on or after July 1, 2026. Please note that awards are subject to compliance review (e.g., human subjects, animal subjects, export control, conflict of interest, etc.) and project work may not begin until relevant compliance requirements have been met. Additional information will be provided to the PI if the proposed project is awarded. Projects must be completed by June 30, 2027. Proposal timelines should adhere to the allowable timeframe as the program will not allow for rollover or extensions.

Application Requirements

Applications must be submitted by **Thursday, April 9, 2026 by NOON PST**. No late submissions will be accepted. Applicants may only submit one Teacher-Scholar Mini Grant proposal (as PI or co-PI). Applications must be submitted through the [Cal Poly InfoReady application system](#).

Notification

The submission and award notification timelines have been oriented to allow applicants time to prepare and submit applications with consideration of other internal funding opportunities (e.g., RSCA grant) and to allow appropriate time for review. Applicants will be notified whether their proposals have been awarded by June 2026.

Questions?

Please contact research@calpoly.edu. Information about this program can also be found on our [website](#).