

## **Guidelines for Preparing the Application for Department of Psychology Diversity Research Grant**

This is a \$500 grant awarded to a graduate student who is proposing to conduct an original research study that emphasizes diversity. The project has to include an original data collection, and it must be for a research project other than the student's thesis or dissertation.

For all sections of the application, use a 12-point font, single-spaced text, and no less than 1-inch margins on all sides. Tables and figures are allowed to be in smaller fonts if necessary. ***For fairness, applications that exceed the page limits or otherwise do not adhere to the application instructions will not be reviewed.***

**Applications should include the following six sections:**

### **1. Abstract**

Provide an abstract of the proposed research. Avoid the use of jargon and provide a context for the proposed work, including its significance and implications. ***The abstract should be 250 words or less.***

### **2. Goals and Significance of the Study**

Describe clearly the significance of the proposed research for the area under study (i.e., why, and to whom, does the proposed project matter). Explain the study's goals (i.e., aims of the study). ***This section must not exceed two pages. There is no page limit for the reference section.***

### **3. Methods**

Succinctly describe the methods of the proposed research and provide a timeline. The Methods needs to include sections on participants, procedures, and measures. The timeline should begin June 1, and the funds for the proposed research should be expended within 12 months. ***This section must not exceed two pages. One additional page may be used for figures and tables. Again, there is no page limit for the reference section. The references for the Methods should be combined with the references for the Goals, Significance and Innovativeness of the Study.***

### **4. Rationale**

Explain how the proposed research is consistent with the department's mission on diversity. In addition, explain how the proposed research fits with the applicant's overall research plan and how funding this proposal would enhance the growth of the applicant's research program and/or the growth of a new direction of research for the applicant. ***This section must not exceed one page.***

### **5. References**

References should be APA style. There is no page limit for this section.

### **6. Budget**

Funds can only be used for participant payments or the purchase of research supplies. It is recognized that \$500 is typically not enough to fund a project in psychology, so summarize other available sources of research support (e.g., your time, undergraduate research assistants) available to you to help complete the project. It is fine if the proposed research project is linked to another data collection (e.g., one in which a faculty research mentor is directing), but this should be clearly specified. Also, explain what other efforts you are making or planning to make to fund the proposed research. ***This section must not exceed one page.***

**Include a Curriculum Vitae with the Proposal**

**Proposal Due Date:**

Proposals are due March 1 (5:00 CST). They need to be emailed to the Director of Graduate Studies. ***For fairness, applications received after the due date will not be reviewed.***

**Proposal Review:**

Proposals will be reviewed by faculty members of the department's Committee on Diversity and the SMU Psychology Doctoral Program Science Committee. The review panel will include researchers from a range of areas in psychology. Thus, the proposal should be written so that it can be read and understood by someone who is not an expert in the field of the proposed research.

The proposals will be reviewed along the following dimensions, many of which are derived from review criteria of federal agencies that fund extramural research (e.g., NIH, NSF). Applications that are strong in each of these are more likely to be scored highly.

- Significance of the proposed research
- The rigor and quality of the research methods (i.e., conception, definitions, organization, research design, measurement and proposed statistical analyses when relevant)
- Consistency with the department's mission on diversity
- Consistency and fit with the applicant's overall research plan and the quality of the applicant's previous work
- Feasibility of the proposed project
- Overall Impact: An assessment of the application as a whole, after considering all of the above review criteria together

**We will do our best to announce decisions for funding prior to April 30.**

**Expectations of grant recipients:**

- Funds for the proposed research should be expended within 12 months
- The hypotheses and methods are expected to be pre-registered prior to data collection. Evidence of pre-registration is necessary before funds will be dispersed
- The student is expected present the project at a department research colloquium during the 12-month timeline for the project. This presentation can occur at any stage of the project (e.g., prior to data collection), and the presentation should be included in the student's timeline

Questions about the Diversity Research Grant should be directed to the Director of Graduate Studies.