

Call for Nominations

2027-28 STEM-NET FACULTY INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH GRANTS

Sacramento State is holding an [internal competition](#) to select a proposal for submission to the 2027-28 STEM-NET Faculty Interdisciplinary Research Grant Program.

About STEM-NET's Grants:

Driven by an unwavering commitment to student success and in support of undergraduate student research opportunities, [STEM-NET](#) is transforming the CSU system into a preeminent champion of inclusive access to research and learning experiences that equip diverse STEM students for thriving careers in STEM-related fields. By empowering CSU STEM leaders in pedagogy, research, and grant-writing, STEM-NET ensures the continued success of both students and faculty.

STEM-NET strategically invests in research areas that increase the potential to garner externally sponsored grants and awards to support student retention and graduation and strengthen the STEM workforce in California. The transition towards interdisciplinary collaboration is manifold. It emanates from within the scientific community as research progresses and new scientific problems emerge that are not a single disciplinary perspective. In the last decade, numerous funding programs (e.g., NSF) have been launched across the United States, designed to stimulate interdisciplinary collaboration in, for example, cognitive neuroscience, behavioral economics, and mathematical anthropology. **Several of these programs seek to catalyze and support the integration of the social sciences, humanities, or arts as key participants in interdisciplinary research.** One way to accomplish this goal is to provide SEED funding to faculty cohorts to increase the number of externally funded projects in the CSU. As noted in the 2004 National Academies report, "Interdisciplinary research is a mode of research by teams or individuals that integrates information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts, and/or theories from two or more disciplines or bodies of specialized knowledge to advance fundamental understanding or to solve problems whose solutions are beyond the scope of a single discipline or area of research practice."

The STEM-NET Faculty Interdisciplinary Research Grant Program aims to support and encourage the development of interdisciplinary research and scholarship collaborations by faculty members in STEM and the social sciences, humanities, and arts. STEM-NET SEED grants will fund activities that support the submission of large external grants, aligned with STEM-NET's mission and vision.

The STEM-NET Steering Committee is seeking nominations from Campus Provosts for these grants. In subsequent years, the nature and amounts of available funding will depend on the direction taken by the Executive Director in conjunction with the Steering Committee.

Eligibility:

- The program is open to tenured/tenure-track (T/TT) CSU faculty and full- and part-time lecturers.
- The faculty team must include at least one faculty member in the social sciences, humanities, or arts who is not serving solely in an evaluation role.
- Only one application may be submitted per CSU campus.
- The project plan and budget must be directly linked to the data collection efforts needed for the future submission or resubmission of a research grant application external to the California State University (CSU) system.
- Funding must support a new project and may not be used to supplement an ongoing funded program.
- A substantial portion of the project budget should support undergraduate student research.

Funding: Maximum Award Amount: \$30,000

Project Duration: Up to 12 months, with a project start date no earlier than February 1, 2027.

Budget Restrictions:

Allowable/Required	Not Allowable
Faculty salary support of up to three semester units (AWTU) at \$2,488 per unit, per faculty member, during the academic year or summer.	Faculty overload.
Student salaries that follow the salary policies of the campus Human Resources (HR) department.	Travel funds.
A substantial portion of the budget should be devoted to supporting undergraduate student research.	Instrumentation.
	Indirect costs (IDC).

Note: Project plans and budgets should be directly linked to the data collection efforts required for a future external grant submission or resubmission.

Award Requirements/Deliverables

- Submit a six-month project report detailing status of the project and budget expenditures.
- Submit a final project report within 30 days of the project end date.
- Complete an external grant submission by Thursday, February 1, 2029.

Proposal Criteria:

Proposal Evaluation Criteria Criterion	Weight	What Reviewers Will Consider
Merit and Feasibility	30%	Creative and technical merit and approach; clarity of project objectives and appropriateness of the proposed methods; and achievability of the proposed tasks within the 12-month timeline and budget.
Student Engagement	30%	Quality and robustness of the plan for engaging and mentoring undergraduate students, including benefits to student learning and professional development. Proposals with a strong undergraduate student engagement component will be prioritized.
Potential for Extramural Funding	30%	Clarity and feasibility of the external funding strategy and the likelihood that the 12-month seed project will lead directly to proposal preparation and submission.
Qualifications & Impact	10%	Qualifications of the PI or team to execute the project and the potential for the research/creative work to have systemwide or societal impact across any discipline.
TOTAL	100%	

Sacramento State's Internal Competition:

Each campus is only allowed a single application. To put forth the strongest proposals from our campus, an internal competition will be held to select one nominee to move forward with a submission.

Required nomination materials must be submitted via [InfoReady Review](#) and are due **by 5:00 pm on October 19, 2026**.

The review process will have two elements: 1) eligibility review; and 2) full proposal review. To determine eligibility, the ORIED will use the criteria defined by STEM-NET (summarized above) to ensure nominations meet all the program requirements. If more than one eligible nomination is received, an *ad hoc* committee of reviewers Academic Affairs Leadership (selected by the Provost) and ORIED staff will conduct a full proposal review. The review will result in a recommendation to the Provost for final decision. Applicants will be notified the week of November 2, 2026, and the selected applicant will have the opportunity to revise and refine application materials prior to submission to STEM-NET by November 16, 2026. Upon finalization, ORIED will submit the selected campus proposal on behalf of the Provost and PI.

Nomination Materials (please upload these documents through [InfoReady Review](#)):

- Proposal Narrative: Not to exceed five (5) pages single-spaced (minimum font size 11), write-up of the project responding to all portions of the nomination template (see below).
- Budget and Budget Justification: Limited to one (1) page.
- References: References may be a separate document; does not count towards Narrative page restriction.
- Faculty CVs: For PI (and co-PIs if appropriate); not to exceed two (2) pages; must include any current or pending support.

Nomination Template:

The proposal narrative should include the following information:

- Title of proposal
- Background and Significance
- Research Questions/Project Objectives
- Student Engagement Plan
- Extramural Funding Strategy
- Description of how this project supports [CSU FORWARD](#) or advances another critical institutional priority or function.

Competition Timeline:

October 19, 2026 – Internal self-nominations due by 5:00 pm. Nomination materials must be submitted via [InfoReady Review](#).

Week of November 2, 2026 – ORIED notifies nominees of internal campus selection; selected nominee has roughly two weeks to revise and refine nominations materials.

November 16, 2026 – ORIED submits nomination to STEM-NET on behalf of the Provost and the PI.

January 22, 2027 – STEM-NET notifies each campus of awards.

February 1, 2027 – Funding for selected proposals will be in place.

February 1, 2029 – Deadline to have submitted an external grant. Notify STEM-NET.