

ADVANCE Collaborative Research Seed Grants FAQs

Can faculty from non-STEM colleges participate on a Collaborative Research Seed Grant proposal?

Yes, but at least one of the lead Investigator's for each proposal must be full-time faculty from NSF supported STEM colleges at UMass Amherst including the College of Engineering, College of Information and Computer Sciences, College of Natural Sciences, and College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, as well as the departments of Management in the Isenberg School of Management and Linguistics in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

Can full-time lecturers be lead Investigators?

Yes, if they are lecturers on full-time continuing appointment at NSF supported STEM colleges at UMass Amherst.

Can graduate students be funded through Collaborative Research Seed Grants?

Yes, graduate student salaries can be funded on a seed grant however faculty salaries are not allowed.

Can people from outside of UMass participate in collaborative research teams?

Yes, teams can include faculty and researchers from other universities as team members, however they can not be lead Investigators for the seed grant. Teams are encouraged to identify advisors and colleagues to review their proposals prior to submission and to provide guidance as they work towards submission of a larger grant proposal.

What kind of projects are eligible?

There are no limitations on the types of projects that collaborative groups can propose except that collaboration should be equitable and the projects must demonstrate scientific innovation, good methods and the potential for significant follow-on funding.

How can equity be demonstrated?

The Equity requirement can be met in two ways:

1. The project content can focus on equity and diversity (optional, not required)
2. The project team can be diverse (optional, but strongly encouraged)

In both cases, the proposals must explain how equitable and inclusive practices will be ensured such as developing MOUs that explain how the work will be divided up and how team members will be recognized for their contributions (required for all proposals). Competitive proposals will have a diverse team: including women faculty member(s) and/or faculty members of color.

What target funding sources are suggested for follow-on grants?

Investigators should have in mind particular funding sources when they submit the seed grant proposals. Sources can include NSF, NIH, foundations and internal sources at UMass.

Who will review the Collaborative Research Seed Grant proposals?

The UMass ADVANCE Team will identify experts in your field to evaluate the strength of your proposals (scientific innovation, methods, theory) in conjunction with the ADVANCE team.