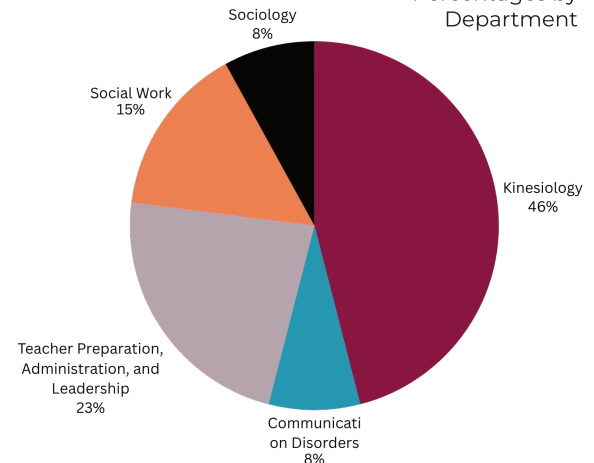


Spring 2026 Mini-Grant Applications

Overview

The Office of the Associate Dean for Research solicited applications for a funding opportunity in Spring 2026. Funding was made available to both students and faculty for travel and/or research-related expenses. Nineteen applications were submitted, including six from faculty and 13 from students. Four faculty awardees and six student awardees had their applications fully funded and received mini grants for travel and research, totaling \$6,500 in awards. The departments represented and the proportion of funding received by each can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1: Awards Percentages by Department



Faculty Awards

Two categories of mini grants were offered to faculty in amounts up to \$500. Travel awards were designed to support professional activities that enhance scholarship and career development, with special consideration given to recognition or honors such as invited presentations or substantial professional organization awards. Research awards were intended to address unforeseen research-related needs that could significantly delay or disrupt ongoing projects if left unmet. Publication fees were not an eligible expenditure, as the awards were meant to support ongoing projects.

Three faculty members received mini grants of \$500 each for travel expenses and one faculty member received a mini grant of \$500 for materials embedded within an ongoing instructional design research project. Travel expenses are all designated for conference attendance, which is expected to provide important professional development for each applicant. Details of the amounts awarded to faculty in each department are listed in Table 2.

Department	Awards	Amount
Communication Disorders	1	\$500
Kinesiology	1	\$500
Teacher Preparation, Administration and Leadership	1	\$500
Social Work	1	\$500

Table 2: Faculty Awards by Department

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Student Awards

The student mini grants were designed to provide financial assistance for research-related expenses to both graduate and undergraduate students across the college's nine academic units. Eligible expenses include data collection, participant incentives, research materials, software, travel for fieldwork, dissemination efforts, and trainings/workshops. Both undergraduate and graduate students were given equal consideration.

Funding was offered in two tiers: amounts up to \$500 in Tier 1 and amounts between \$500 and \$1,000 in Tier 2. Funding was anticipated for up to ten Tier 1 awards and up to five Tier 2 awards.

Three graduate students submitted Tier 1 requests, and all were fully funded. Six graduate students and four undergraduate students submitted Tier 2 requests, and two graduate students and one undergraduate student were fully funded. The total number of accepted applications and the amounts awarded in each department are listed in **Table 3**.

Department	Awards	Amount
Teacher Preparation, Administration and Leadership	1	\$1,000
Kinesiology	3	\$2,500
Sociology	1	\$500
Social Work	1	\$500

Table 3: Student Awards by Department

Most of these applications included funding for participant compensation. Other types of expenditures included equipment (e.g., temperature sensor devices), biological sample analysis, software licenses, transcription services, recruitment materials, and administrative supplies. Projects were either early phases or extensions of larger research projects. Populations of interest included first-generation college students, community-dwelling older adults, female athletes, fire fighters, high-school students, and college students in STEM.

Key Takeaways

Applications represented a range of scholarly activities across several departments. Requests were modest and well-justified within the program parameters. While faculty applications mostly requested travel funding, students applied for funding to work on both new and continuing research.

There is significant potential for community impact, particularly in educational and community health settings. These awards are expected to contribute to professional development for both students and faculty, providing increased opportunities for conference presentations, publications, community partnerships, and networking.

