2026-2027 Call for Proposals

College of Natural Health Sciences

Graduate Student Research Fund

Graduate students in the College of Natural and Health Sciences (NHS) are invited to submit proposals for funding to support research and research-related travel.
Funding is awarded on a competitive basis through a proposal process. Two funding rounds will take place during the academic year: one in the fall semester and one in the spring semester.

About the NHS Student Research Fund
In spring 2006, the College of Natural and Health Sciences (NHS) established a Foundation account entitled the NHS Student Research Fund. Supported through donations from faculty, staff, and friends of the College, the Student Research Fund provides financial support for student research and research-related travel.

Purpose
The Student Research Fund is designed to support research and research-related travel by NHS students. Please note:

- Salaries are not eligible for funding.
- All expenses must be consistent with University policy.

Funding Available
Funding is available through the NHS Student Research Fund Foundation account, supported through donations from faculty, staff, and friends of the College. A total pool of $7,500 is expected to be available during the 2026–2027 academic year. **Individual proposals may request up to $500**.

Eligibility
Applicants must:

- Be a graduate student admitted to a degree program within the College of Natural and Health Sciences.
- Submit no more than one proposal per semester.
- Be eligible for no more than one award per calendar year.

Proposal Submission Deadlines
Two rounds of funding will take place during the 2026–2027 academic year.
Completed electronic applications **must be received by 5 pm** on the following dates:

Fall Semester Competition, October 12, 2026 (must be spent by February 28, 2027)
Spring Semester Competition, January 25, 2027 (must be spent by June 9, 2027)

Submit completed applications via email to **David.Hydock@unco.edu**.

Proposal Review Procedure
Proposals received by the stated deadlines will be reviewed by the NHS Awards Committee, which will make recommendations to the Dean of the College regarding the allocation of funds.

Proposal Format
Each application for Student Research Fund monies must include the following:

1. Completed Application Form
2. Project Narrative
3. Project Budget and Timeline
4. Required Attachments

Each component is described in more detail below. While the student should write the proposal, the committee encourages students to seek support from their research advisor or other faculty members to refine their proposals.

Project Narrative

Maximum length: Two (2) pages, single-spaced, 12-point font

Because faculty reviewers represent diverse fields and may not be acquainted with your area of study, **write your proposal for readers outside of your field**. Do not assume that reviewers will understand or value your research unless you make a strong case for its importance and significance.

Your Project Narrative should address the following:

- Describe the proposed activity or research project.
- Explain what you plan to accomplish.

Significance of the Research

At least one-third of the Project Narrative should be devoted to explaining the significance of the proposed research. Consider addressing questions such as:

- Will the project address a gap in current knowledge?
- Does the project involve an innovative approach?
- If the project involves quantitative research, will the proposed activity lead to valid data that can be statistically analyzed?
- What impact could the proposed activity have on the research community and/or society?

Previously Funded or Ongoing Research

If the proposal relates to previously funded student research, please explain how the current project relates to the outcomes of the previous or ongoing work.

References
The inclusion of a reference list may be appropriate. The reference list does not count toward the two-page limit.

Virtual Conference Requests

If requesting funds for a virtual conference:

- Include a copy of the abstract as an attachment. This does not count toward the two-page limit.
- Indicate whether the paper has been invited and/or accepted.
- If you are waiting for an acceptance decision, indicate when that decision is expected.

Note: For proposals requesting funds to conduct research, it is not necessary to include the specific research question(s), hypotheses, or every individual step in each procedure you plan to perform.

Project Budget and Timeline

Maximum length: Two (2) pages

Include a detailed and itemized project budget, the total amount requested, and a detailed project timeline. Please also include the following information, as applicable:

- Field or Lab Work

If funds are requested to support your time in the field or lab collecting data, please note that $16 per hour is the maximum rate that may be requested.

- Virtual Conference Participation

If funds are requested for virtual conference participation:

  - Include the title of the meeting.
  - If accepted, include a copy of the acceptance letter.

Additional Funding Sources
If the total project budget exceeds $500, include a list of other project funding sources from which you are seeking funds, if applicable.

Equipment or Software
All equipment and software proposals must include a budget justification verifying that:

- The equipment or software needs are outside of existing resources; and
- The requested equipment or software is necessary for the proposed project.

Required Attachments

- Faculty Research Mentor Letter of Support

Include a letter of support from a faculty research mentor addressing the following:

  - The significance of the project for the student's research and/or professional development.
  - A statement of willingness to provide mentoring support.
  - If applicable, verification that requested non-consumable equipment or software is not available through existing program resources.
  - If applicable, an explanation of the value of the requested equipment or software for future student projects.

If attending a conference or other professional meeting, include a copy of the abstract.

A Note About Organization and Readability

Please clearly label the "Project Narrative" and "Project Budget and Timeline" sections of your application.

The NHS Awards Committee reviews proposals from students across a variety of academic disciplines. Applicants are encouraged to present information in a manner that is clear, well organized, and easy to understand.

Use headings, subheadings, and other formatting tools as appropriate to organize your proposal logically. Avoid submitting a document that consists of large blocks of text without clear organization or section headings. A well-organized proposal will help reviewers easily identify and understand the key components of your project.

NHS Student Research Fund Application Form

Student Name (Print) _____

Student School/Department _____

Student Classification (check one) ____Undergraduate _____Masters ____Doctorate

Degree Program _____

Proposal Type (check one) ____ Research ____Conference

Student e-mail _____

Student Signature _____

Research Mentor Name (Print) _____

Research Mentor Approval Signature _____

School Director/Department Chair Signature _____

Project Title _____

Please note, this page is required for your application to be considered. Please ensure requested signatures are obtained before submitting your proposal.

Screening Rubrics

Research Proposal Criteria (12 points possible)	Not Included (0 points) Partially Developed (1 point) Fully Developed (2 points)
Clear Description of the proposed activity	
Significance of proposed research is clear based on a gap in knowledge **OR** an innovative approach	
Data collection appears valid and related to question or hypothesis	
Qualitative or quantitative measures for testing question or hypothesis are clear	
Budget is clear and justified	
Mentor Letter is supportive	
TOTAL POINTS	

Presentation Proposal Criteria (8 points possible)	Not Included (0 points) Partially Developed (1 point) Fully Developed (2 points)
Has the abstract been accepted	
Based on abstract, is work completed to the point where it is ready for presentation?	
Budget is clear and justified	
Mentor Letter is supportive	
TOTAL POINTS	