The primary purpose of CINSAM research grants is to provide support for faculty research with students in CINSAM-related departments. The policies below are intended to maximize the number and quality of student research experiences, especially those that are integrative in nature. The intended outcomes include presentations by students as well as presentations, publications, and grant proposals to external funding organizations by faculty. Furthermore, the grants are intended to support faculty in advancing their research agendas so early career faculty are prioritized over more established researchers, and new avenues of research that might require preliminary data prior to external grant applications are prioritized over established research programs.

Changes from previous year:
This year, we are not making any new changes to the guidelines. As a reminder, last year, we incorporated several changes/clarifications: The first was an explicit call for Discipline Based Education Research/Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (DBER/SOTL) projects. Additionally, we explicitly stated that grant funds may be used for course releases during the academic year with agreement from your chair and dean. We are now publishing the review rubric with the RFP (see below). All proposals should include a list of previous CINSAM research grant funding. Finally, faculty in a non-CINSAM department may be paid with CINSAM Research Grants funds; the goal is to encourage collaboration across disciplines, especially if doing so can effect broader impacts.

General policies:
- Faculty members from CINSAM departments/Colleges (Biological Sciences; Chemistry & Biochemistry; Computer Science; Mathematics & Statistics; Physics, Geology & Engineering Technology; College of Education) may submit a proposal. Collaborations with faculty outside these fields are allowable as long as the lead investigator, is within a CINSAM department. Faculty collaborators in non-CINSAM departments may be paid on the grant. The subject of the research must also be STEM related. At least two students must be included in the research project.
- In this document, “students” refers mainly to undergraduates, but because of CINSAM’s emphasis on training teachers, graduate students in teaching fields are also eligible to be counted as student researchers on CINSAM Research Grants.
- Grants will run during the calendar year 2021. Grant activity may be carried out any time during the year.
- Successful grants generally range from about $7,000 to $13,000. Applicants are strongly advised to limit requests to reasonable expenditures given the scope of the research; all expenditures must be well supported in the budget justification. The following caps also apply:
  - Total spending cap: $12,000 for proposals with one (1) faculty researcher; $18,000 for proposals with two (2) faculty researchers
  - Salary spending cap: $5,000 for each faculty member, not including FICA
  - Grant funds may be used for course releases with agreement from your chair and dean.
- Priority areas for funding areas are student stipends, research supplies (no major equipment), student travel to collect data, and faculty summer salary.
- Pre-tenure tenure track faculty will be given the highest priority, followed by associate professors. Proposals from full professors and non-tenure track faculty, however, are still welcome. Temporary faculty may also apply as secondary collaborators with a permanent faculty member.
- CINSAM Research Grants are designed to fund research and scholarship activity so the following expenses should not be requested through this grant program:
  - Faculty or student travel to conferences for presentation purposes
Course development or revision, even if you plan to insert some research into a course
- Outreach-focused activities, although outreach may be a secondary goal
- Sabbatical salary support

The following will serve as guidelines for personnel costs:
- **Students**: A maximum stipend of $2,750 per year per student is allowable. This represents $10/hr. for 11 weeks at 25 hrs./wk. summer work. If fewer hours are expected, prorate accordingly. Students must be paid with stipends. *Funds allocated to students in the proposal may not be reallocated to other purposes after the award.*
- **Faculty**: Faculty may request up to one month of summer salary. Preference is given to supporting additional students. While summer salary is not required, if no faculty summer salary is requested, the proposal should address how the faculty member will be compensated.
- **FICA**: This should be computed at 7.65% of any summer salary for faculty and students. Please include FICA in your student stipend budget estimates even though it may not have to be paid out (based on student course load). Any funds not required for FICA will return to CINSAM.
- A faculty member will not receive more than two months of summer salary for all projects supported by CINSAM including outreach and research. The faculty member is responsible for ensuring that the university-imposed summer salary limit of 25% of 9-month salary is not exceeded.

Any faculty member that has received two or more years of CINSAM Research Grant must provide evidence of efforts to secure external funding for further research following the CINSAM Grants, including a brief narrative and complete citations of external grant proposals submitted (title, funding source, amount date, and result). If no external grant proposals were submitted, please provide an explanation.

Faculty who have received CINSAM Research Grants in two of the last five years may apply for further CINSAM Research Grant funding this year, however other applications will be given priority.

Reports that are due for the investigator’s previous CINSAM projects must be on file by the submission deadline in order for the proposal to be considered.

Grants will be peer-reviewed for selection by a panel of faculty from the CINSAM departments/programs. If you are interested in serving on the review panel, please submit your name via this link.

Investigators awarded a 2021 CINSAM Research Grant will be expected to serve on future CINSAM Research Grant review panels.

Questions should be directed to Madhura Kulkarni via email kulkarnim2@nku.edu with “2022 CINSAM Research Grant Proposal” in the subject line.

### CINSAM Grants Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>November 29</td>
<td>Deadline to submit proposal to chairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 14</td>
<td>Deadline to submit proposal to CINSAM (with internal questions resolved &amp; chair support)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Late December - Early January</td>
<td>CINSAM Research Grant review committee reviews proposals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early January</td>
<td>CINSAM communicates funding decisions</td>
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### Proposal Evaluation Criteria:
A committee of faculty from CINSAM Departments and CINSAM itself will review documents using the criteria laid out in a rubric at the end of this RFP document.

CINSAM is particularly interested in supporting proposals that:
- lead to submissions for external funding and publications and presentations with student authors.
- are integrative and cross-disciplinary, proposing active involvement of faculty and students from two or more departments or disciplines. Each investigator’s contribution to the collaboration must be described.
- address diversity, equity and inclusion in your discipline.
Submission and review of proposals:

- We highly recommend communicating with your department chair(s) as early as possible about plans to submit a CINSAM Grant proposal.
- All required documentation should be submitted via an online form in the three (3) documents (cover page, proposal body, and budget spreadsheet), outlined below.
- The full proposal should include:
  a. **Signed CINSAM Research Proposal Cover Sheet** (see page 6 below)
  b. **Proposal body** – all in one unified .docx or .pdf document:
     i. The **project description (no more than six double-spaced pages)** including:
        1. a description of the need for the work;
        2. a description of all project related activities;
        3. feasibility of the project – background and expertise of the proposer(s) and student(s);
        4. expected outcomes from the project and means for evaluating them; and
        5. plan for dissemination of results.
     ii. **Detailed budget justification** that is aligned with the attached budget spreadsheet and includes *reasoning behind each line item in the budget*. Prospective cost-share arrangements may be addressed here with supporting documentation from the interested parties included in the appendix.
     iii. Indication of **sources of potential future funding** for continuation of this project
     iv. Record of **previous applications for funding** for related projects
     v. Record of **previous CINSAM Research Grant funding**, including the year, title, collaborators, amount of funding, major findings, and subsequent funding obtained for further research
     vi. A brief **curriculum vitae for each faculty investigator** including documentation of faculty and/or student publications and presentations resulting from previous CINSAM grants
  c. **Budget spreadsheet** using the attached form (.xlsx)
  d. Optional **appendices**, which may include letters of match support (if any) or other very relevant documents (.docx or .pdf)

- Proposals must be submitted by November 29 to Department Chair(s), and December 14 to CINSAM (with chair approval) via [this link](#).
- Proposals will be reviewed by a cross-disciplinary panel of peer reviewers from CINSAM Departments. The panel will make funding recommendations to CINSAM and CINSAM will make the final decision based on panel recommendations, chair approval and available funds.
- Project directors who receive a CINSAM Research Grant will be required to submit reports to CINSAM for three years following the grant.
CINSAM Research Grant Evaluation Rubric

All criteria are scored on a scale of 1-5, where:

1 = Strongly Disagree  2 = Disagree  3 = Neutral  4 = Agree  5 = Strongly Agree

DIMENSION 1: OVERALL QUALITY
Relative weight 0.7

a. How well the proposal meets the purpose of the program for which the application is made
CINSAM Research Grants are awarded to provide funds to pay for stipends, supplies, and student travel for faculty and research with students.
   i. This proposal clearly meets the purpose of a CINSAM Research Grant.
   ii. The proposal clearly includes a role for at least two student researchers. (DBER/SOTL grants may have only one student researcher.)

b. The value of the project to the applicant’s growth and professional status; the value of the project to the scholarly community
This project represents value, merit, or worth to the applicant’s:
   i. Academic or scholarly development
   ii. Professional growth and advancement (CINSAM Grants prioritize Assistant, then Associate Professors. Full professors and non-tenure track faculty are also eligible. Temporary faculty may only apply as secondary investigators on a permanent faculty member’s proposal.)
   iii. Scholarly community

c. The ability of the applicant to convey the content and importance of the project to those outside his/her own academic discipline
For those in other academic disciplines, this project’s:
   i. Content is described clearly, coherently, and non-technically
   ii. Importance is readily understandable or knowable

d. Overall quality of the proposal
This project:
   i. Follows the requested format by addressing all requirements of the application
   ii. Presents a logical, reasoned argument
   iii. Provides adequate academic references and in-text citations
   iv. Demonstrates alignment between the proposed work and requested budget, with a clear and reasonable budget justification
DIMENSION 2: APPLICANT DILIGENCE
Relative weight 0.3

e. The probability that the project will be carried out (to be measured in terms of the applicant’s background, previous successes, and attainability of the goals stated)
This project:
   i. Has goals that are achievable in the time allotted
   ii. Is likely to be performed or executed, given the applicants’ background, expertise, and prior accomplishments (i.e. publications, presentations, references, creative activities, previous grants, etc.)

f. Contribution of the project to the applicant’s ongoing scholarship or creative activity
The applicant:
   i. Will be able to use this project to advance their ongoing scholarship or creative activities

g. Investigation of further funding sources
This project:
   i. Has examined other funding sources for this project

DIMENSION 3: Value Added
Additional consideration beyond main score calculated from Dimensions 1 & 2

h. Value added
This project:
   i. Will address DBER/SOTL questions
   ii. Will address diversity, equity and/or inclusion issues
   iii. Crosses disciplinary boundaries

Revised 2020
CINSAM Research Grant Proposal Cover Sheet

Title: ____________________________________________________________

Amount requested: ________________________________________________

Project Director I (main contact): ___________________________________

PD I email: ___________________________ phone: __________ Department: __________

Project Director II: _______________________________________________

PD II email: ___________________________ phone: __________ Department: __________

Repeat as needed for other project directors.

Brief non-technical summary that may be used in publications about CINSAM Grants (150-300 words):

If any of the PDs has received two or more years of CINSAM support, include abstracts of external proposals and referee reports in the Proposal body. Also include a brief (less than one page) narrative justifying how the new proposed CINSAM work improves the PD’s chances of receiving external funding.

Please indicate any other funding (ALL SOURCES including private, University, State, or Federal):

• pending

• current

PD I Department Chair: __________________________________________ Date: __________

PD II Department Chair: __________________________________________ Date: __________