APPLYING FOR THE DODSON RESEARCH GRANT

Presenter: Dr. Isela Ocegueda
Assistant Dean of the Graduate School
DODSON ENDOWMENT

• Les and Harriet Dodson
• Mountain Pass Canning Company
• Willed entire estate to UTEP
• Funds are to be used at the discretion of UTEP’s President to benefit students.
  • Ropes Course
  • Music Theater Scholarships
  • Library reference materials
  • Medical Professions Institute
• Graduate Student Research Grants
The Graduate School sponsors the grant

Funds are to assist grad student research:

- Dissertation
- Thesis
- Final projects
- Other projects
THE FUNDS

- Graduate School applies for a pool of funds on an annual basis
- Fostering graduate student research activities
- Up to $3000 per student
- Reports from previous students
FOR EXAMPLE...

- **Student 1**– MS in Engineering, College of Engineering. Used Dodson funds to develop a water filtration system for use in underdeveloped communities.

- **Student 2**– PhD in Borderlands History in the College of Liberal Arts. Used Dodson funds to travel within the state and internationally to access archival data on binational water use.

- **Student 3**– PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, College of Science. Used Dodson funds to support travel to Africa to collect samples of a rare chameleon, studied to gauge the impact of climate change.

- **Student 4**– PhD in International Business in the College of Business Administration. Used the funds to purchase incentives to recruit participants.
ELIGIBILITY & SELECTION

• Applicants must be enrolled in a graduate degree program and show progress toward the degree.

• Preference may go to students who have not previously won the Dodson grant.

• Students may only be awarded the Dodson grant once per academic year.

• Students may not be awarded the Dodson grant more than twice during their Master’s or doctoral program.

• Students who have won the Dodson grant before should explain in their application why they should be funded a second time.

• Funding may support travel for the purposes of conducting research or to receive specialized research training, but not for attendance or presentation at academic conferences.

• Applicants must apply as individuals, not as a team.
HOW TO APPLY

- Online application (you’ll need to upload your proposal as a Word or PDF file)

- Your proposal should include the items listed here:
  1) Project proposal (maximum 3 pages double spaced)
  2) Itemized budget and budget justification
  3) IRB approval (if necessary)
  4) A letter of support from your faculty supervisor/mentor is required (but this is done separately)
Project Proposal

- Three pages, double-spaced
- Clear explanation of the project
  - In non-technical language
- Description of the activities to be supported
- Explanation of how this funding will contribute to the completion of the degree
- If a previous Dodson grant winner, explanation as to why you should be funded a second time.
- **Itemized budget & budget justification** to include only actual research expenses
  - No wages paid to the applicant
  - No tuition
  - No hiring assistants to do the work
  - These may NOT include wages paid to applicant or personal items. Any items purchased with grant funds will be property of UTEP.
- Also, please indicate any efforts you have made to secure other funding for research support.
Letter of Support by Faculty Supervisor/Mentor:

- Once you submit your proposal, your faculty supervisor will be prompted (via email) to submit a letter of support electronically, which is required to apply for the Dodson Research Grant.

- The faculty letter should comment on the degree to which funding will advance your research agenda and any other information he/she would like to share about your merit.

- It is recommended that you forward a version of your application to your supervisor in order to assist them in the preparation of their letter of support, which should be uploaded electronically (faculty will receive a link via email once you complete and submit your proposal).
• It’s in the details: crafting a strong application

• Write coherently

• Use your spell-check

• Answer all the questions being asked

• Offer to let your major professor review the proposal before it is submitted.
Deadline to apply for the Spring/Summer 2017 grants will be October 28, 2016.

Deadline to apply for the Summer/Fall 2017 grants will be March 24, 2017.

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.
Applications are reviewed and scored by at least two members of a faculty panel who score each application on its quality and merit.
If awarded the Dodson Research Grant

- Contact your department's administrative assistant regarding the transfer of funds to your department. Disbursement and access of funds is determined by each department.

- If you are awarded the Dodson grant in the Fall (October deadline), all funds must be expended by the Spring and/or Summer of that academic year. If you are awarded the Dodson grant in the Spring (March deadline), all funds must be expended by the Summer and/or Fall of that year.

- If you are using Dodson funds for research-related travel, you must ensure that your department approves your travel before making arrangements.

- Dodson funds may only be applied for acquisition of items listed in your budget upon application.

- As a winner of the Dodson Research Grant, you are expected to apply for at least one other external funding opportunity to support your research.
IF AWARDED THE DODSON RESEARCH GRANT

- Graduate School will ask for report on your progress
- Becomes part of report to President
- Used as basis for requesting the next round of funds
Most questions can be answered by visiting the Dodson Research Grant website:

http://graduate.utep.edu/scholarships_dodson_research_grants.html

Questions regarding the dispersal or management of Dodson funds may be directed to:

Graduate School Administrative Assistant
Ms. Brianda Gonzalez
bcgonzalez@utep.edu
(915) 747-8625

Director of Administration, Graduate School
Mr. Fabian Villanueva
fvillanueva2@utep.edu
(915) 747-8989

Questions about the Dodson Research Grant application process may be directed to:

Assistant Dean of the Graduate School
Dr. Isela Ocegueda
iocegueda2@utep.edu
(915) 747-5237