THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

Dodson Research Grant

J. Aaron Waggoner, Ph.D.
jawaggoner@utep.edu
The Graduate School
Feb. 1, 2019
Funding
utep.edu/graduate/funding

• Hub for opportunities promotion & applications

• Graduate School Travel Grant, Dodson Research Grant, & more

• Workshops about opportunities & successful applications
GradCommunity
GSA Meeting — Feb. 26 @ 2 p.m.

WeWrite
Librarians & Burritos— Feb. 8 @ 10 a.m.

CareerPrep
3MT Info. Webinar— Feb. 4 @ 10 a.m.
3MT Prelims— Feb. 27 & 28 @ 5 p.m.
What is the Dodson Research Grant?

The Graduate School administers the opportunity, mostly funded by the Les and Harriet Dodson estate endowment (which is managed by the President’s Office).

Up to $3000 for grad student research:
- Dissertation
- Thesis
- Final projects
- Other projects
Examples

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.
It can fund...
✓ Travel for field research
✓ Usable lab materials
✓ Tests
✓ Participant incentives

But not:
✓ Travel to conferences or trainings
✓ Paid assistants
✓ Tuition
✓ Wages
✓ Major equipment*
Process

1. Online portal
2. One cycle per semester
   a) October 26
      *Spend before Dec. 1, next year*
   b) March 22
      *Spend before May 15, next year*
3. Faculty Review Committee
4. Notification & Acceptation
5. Funded work & external application
6. Final report
Application Components

1. Project Proposal (3 pg. double spaced)
   a) Clear, non technical explanation of project
   b) Description of activities to be funded
   c) Connection to degree completion
   d) Justification for second time funding (if previous winner)

2. Itemized Budget & Explanation

3. IRB Approval (if necessary)

4. Faculty Mentor’s letter of support
## Rubric

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Narrative</th>
<th>Missing pieces of the narrative description.</th>
<th>Poorly written proposal; inadequate detail and organization.</th>
<th>Proposal is not written in non-technical language; not accessible to unfamiliar reader.</th>
<th>Proposal describes project, but in less or more than 3 pages; not double-spaced.</th>
<th>Well-written and clearly described project, including activities to be supported, significance of the research, and how the funds will contribute to degree completion.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Budget</em></td>
<td>Unrelated or unfundable expenses.</td>
<td>Requested items are not adequately justified in narrative.</td>
<td>Non-specific line items are listed in budget (e.g., “$1000 for supplies”).</td>
<td>Specified items and justification are outlined, but are not described in adequate depth.</td>
<td>Complete itemized detail regarding the quantity and type of specific items being requested and adequate justification for each as related to completion of research project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letter of Support</td>
<td>No letter included in packet.</td>
<td>Letter is unrelated to proposal.</td>
<td>Letter does not clearly endorse student as a researcher.</td>
<td>Letter endorses student's work and describes how it is doable, sound, and meaningful.</td>
<td>Letter strongly endorses student's work and describes how it is of exceptional quality, well grounded, and significant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Assessment</td>
<td>Not fundable.</td>
<td>Not a priority for funding.</td>
<td>Fundable, apt if additional resources are available.</td>
<td>Fundable, a good use of scarce resources.</td>
<td>Fundable, an excellent use of scarce resources.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Tips

www.utep.edu/graduate/funding

• Carefully follow instructions.
• Draft, edit, revise, and proof your documents.
• Ask for help.
• Use a calendar, organize your applications in a task list or spreadsheet, and set automatic reminders through google calendar, Outlook, or your phone.
• Give your referees plenty of notice. Send them an updated resume or CV, the important details of the opportunity, and instructions. Show appreciation; give them a thank you card.
• Ask your program buddies and mentors for help with your documents. Take advantage of the Career Center, Writing Center, and the Graduate School PD Team. Revise, edit, proof, and repeat.
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