

Faculty-Student Interdisciplinary Scholarship Award

Bradley University's vision is to offer students "an engaging education that transcends traditional boundaries through scholarly and practical experiences". Interdisciplinary scholarship transcends traditional boundaries. The purpose of this award is twofold. First, the award will support interdisciplinary scholarly activity at Bradley University. Second, the award will support mentored undergraduate scholarship on an interdisciplinary project. Students will gain an appreciation of diverse ideas and perspectives, advance their communication and problem-solving skills, and learn to collaborate across diverse perspectives. Those competencies of 21st century learning equip students for the complex and multifaceted opportunities and challenges found in today's world.

The program is supported by the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies.

Award: Up to \$15,000

- Faculty stipend: \$6,000 (shared between co-authors)
- Student award: Up to \$5,000 (paid hourly; one or two students)
- Supplies/Materials/Consultant Services or Other Personnel (including student personnel): Up to \$4,000

What types of projects are funded? The proposed project must be interdisciplinary in nature. An interdisciplinary project:

Integrates information, data, techniques, tools, perspectives, concepts, and/or theories from two or more disciplines or bodies of specialized knowledge. Source: National Science Foundation

The proposal must be co-authored by two Bradley University faculty members who are from different departments. Note: Faculty from the same department *may* be eligible (especially in departments that house multiple disciplines), but they must inquire before submitting (send inquiries to montg@fsmail.bradley.edu). See Eligibility, next page, for details.

The proposed scholarly project must meet one of the two definitions used by The Office of Sponsored Programs at Bradley:

Research is a "systematic investigation, including development, testing, and evaluation, designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge."¹ *Generalizable knowledge* "means that (1) conclusions are drawn from particular instances and (2) the information from the investigation is to be disseminated."²

Creative production refers to the process of transforming ideas and concepts into tangible and expressive forms of content. It involves combining artistic skill, technical expertise, and a deep understanding of the desired outcomes."³

¹ [CFR](#)

² [generalizable knowledge](#)

³ [creative production](#)

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Completed applications include a proposal (see page 3 for details) and letters of support from the applicants' respective chairs. Materials must be submitted electronically to montg@fsmail.bradley.edu no later than **Friday, April 10, 2026**.

Eligibility. Applicants must be full-time faculty members at Bradley University from two different departments. Occasionally, multiple disciplines may be represented within the same department. In those cases, two faculty from the same department *may* be eligible to co-author a proposal, but they must first reach out and confirm eligibility with an email and brief, one paragraph, description of their intent. Contact montg@fsmail.bradley.edu

Only current full-time degree-seeking students at Bradley University can be supported by funding from this grant. Recent graduates, non-degree-seeking students, students from other Colleges or Universities, etc., are not eligible.

Restrictions. Funds from this grant will be available to the recipient(s) for up to 12 months after the agreed-upon start date for the project. The start date should be no later than September 1, 2026.

Individuals **cannot** receive funding from this award while also having an active award from one of the Office of Sponsored Programs faculty award mechanisms (SEA, FSA, and PEG programs).

Funding is provided for Bradley employees to complete the project within the award period. The grant cannot be used to replenish the department or unit's supplies, and the majority of the award budget must be spent before the final months of the project.

Funding may be used during a sabbatical leave only if the chair/unit leader provides a statement supporting the applicant's student engagement activities, as specified in the application, during the sabbatical period.

Instructions: Complete the following sections. One-inch margins and 11 pt. or larger font must be used (images, charts, or tables may use a smaller font). Failure to follow the proposal guidelines will result in the proposal not being reviewed. PDF format preferred. The proposal should be written for a non-specialist.

Project Description page limits:

- items A-E, no more than 5 pages total, not including references.
- Items F-G no more than 2 pages total

Use the following subheadings:

A. Applicant information (name, departments, email addresses).

B. Rationale and Objectives: Clearly state what problem, question, or need the project addresses. Explain why the issue is significant. Summarize the objectives of the proposed activity. If applicable, include a summary of the work that has been previously completed or published by the applicant(s) and/or others on this or similar projects.

C. Methodology/Workplan: As applicable, describe the methods/workplan and data analysis plan for achieving the objective(s).

D. Timeline: Start and end date. Provide a timeline with milestones for completing the objective(s) by the end date. The timeline should generally not exceed one year and it should begin no later than September 1, 2026. If a longer duration is proposed (up to 18 months), provide a justification. Be sure to clearly indicate student involvement throughout the timeline.

E. Outcomes or Products: How will the results from the project be disseminated? Other considerations, as applicable, include: How will this project position you/your team for future external funding opportunities? What foundations or agencies might be interested in scaling this work? Are there other benefits specific to your discipline or to applied (e.g., community) interests that will be achieved through this work?

F. Collaborative Partnership: Indicate why cross-departmental collaboration will contribute to meeting the project objectives, with reference to the complementary expertise of the collaborators.

- Indicate specific roles of each faculty team member and how the team will operate for the duration of the project.
- Indicate the diversity in perspective brought about by the inter-departmental or inter-college collaboration, with the widest collaborative scope (e.g., inter-college) indicating strong diversity in perspectives.
- As applicable, consider opportunities such as (but not limited to) potential for external funding, knowledge translation, student training opportunities, a new interdisciplinary initiative or partnership that goes beyond existing previous work/partnerships.

G. Student Engagement Plan. Describe the plan for engaging students meaningfully in the project.

- **Student Selection:** If the student(s) is already identified, describe their qualifications and explain why they are well-suited for this specific project.

Applicants who have **not** pre-identified the student(s) should provide a detailed recruitment plan by describing:

- Recruitment strategy
 - Selection criteria
 - Approach to ensuring good student-project fit
- **Student Tasks and Responsibilities:** What tasks will the student(s) undertake and accomplish? Be specific about their role in the project.
 - **Mentorship Approach:** How will you mentor, guide, and train the student(s)?
 - **Anticipated Student Outcomes:** What are the anticipated student outcomes and benefits from engagement in the project? Address:
 - Disciplinary skills/techniques specific to your field(s)
 - Transferable skills (e.g., critical thinking, time management, teamwork, interdisciplinary perspective-taking, research ethics, communication, problem-solving)
 - **Student Outcome Assessment:** How will you assess whether students achieved the intended outcomes?
 - **Dissemination Opportunities:** What opportunities will students have to share or present their work? (e.g., conference presentations, publications, exhibitions, community presentations)

H. References: Works cited in your proposal.

I. Biographical Sketch/or Abbreviated CV (1-2 pages). To confirm eligibility requirements and to provide context for reviewers.

Approvals: Please provide the following:

Plan for Securing IRB (CUHSR) for human participants or IACUC (animal studies) Approvals: Although these approvals do not need to be in place at the time of submission, they **MUST** be secured before an award is executed. Failure to secure appropriate approvals may result in the award being rescinded.

Department/Unit Chair/Head Support: Completed proposals must also include statements of support from **each applicant's** home department chair, limited to one paragraph for each one.

Evaluation Rubric for Proposals

Scoring Instructions: Rate each criterion using the scale below (0-3 points). Scores will be weighted according to the percentages shown. Maximum possible score: 3.0 points.

Example: A score of 3 on "Rationale and Objectives" (15% weight) = $3 \times 0.15 = 0.45$ points toward total score.

	Very Strong (3 pts.)	Strong (2 pts.)	Adequate (1 pt.)	Inadequate (0 pts.)	Total
Rationale and Objectives (15%)					
Well-articulated purpose; addresses a meaningful problem. Objectives are clearly aligned with rationale.					
Method/Workplan (15%)					
Project design and analysis are clearly aligned with project objectives/ rationale and demonstrate feasibility.					
Timeline (10%)					
Realistic fit between objectives, method/plan and timeline; student involvement clearly integrated throughout project phases.					
Outcomes (10%)					
Clear, feasible dissemination plan (publications, presentations, creative outputs; grant proposals); strong alignment to objectives.					

Budget (10%)					
Budget is justified and sufficient for attaining project objective(s).					
Collaborative Partnership (15%)					
Collaboration is clearly defined and justified. The complexity of the problem requires interdisciplinary expertise. How broad is the scope of collaboration (i.e., breadth of disciplinary perspectives)?					
Student Engagement Plan (25%)					
Meaningful engagement and outcomes. Clear recruitment/selection plan (or qualified pre-identified students); Substantive student tasks integrated throughout project; Clear mentorship structure with regular feedback; Well-articulated outcomes; Meaningful dissemination opportunities; Concrete assessment plan for student development.					

Budget and Budget Justification Guidelines

The applicants' budget and budget justification are used in the review process. Applicants must provide:

- An itemized budget (table format or itemized list) that uses the headings found in the list of allowable costs with an itemized breakdown of each category.
- A separate budget justification describing why each line item is necessary for the project's success and include a brief explanation for how each amount was determined (calculations, quotes, vendor websites, etc.). *Do not include the actual quotes, webpages, etc.*
- The table below is a template. Applicants may use any format they find suitable.
- The expectation is that the faculty stipend (\$6,000) will be evenly divided between the two applicants reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of the project. Exceptions should be justified.

Budget Items	Cost	Justification
	Total Cost:	

Allowable Costs Include:	Unallowable Costs Include:
<p><i>Undergraduate or Graduate project associate wages:</i> Compensation at an hourly rate for current, degree-seeking Bradley University undergraduate student(s). Hourly minimum wage for Illinois is \$15.00/hr.</p> <p><i>Consultants/contractual services:</i> Services necessary for the proposed project (e.g., interpretation or translation services, transcription or annotation services, printing costs, or use/submission of samples to another facility for testing).</p> <p><i>Participant Costs:</i> Costs related to involving human participants in a study, such as participation incentives, fees for the purchase/use of a survey instrument or assessment tool, or other costs that are directly related to the involvement of human participants for an IRB approved study.</p> <p>Stipend: Faculty stipend.</p> <p>Course Release: Instead of a stipend, faculty may budget for costs that will be incurred by the department or unit to cover the course release.</p>	<p>Compensation for students who are not current, degree-seeking Bradley University students For instance, a student who graduates in May <u>cannot</u> be employed that summer.</p> <p>Funding for graduate assistantships or tuition (To clarify, you may pay students an hourly rate to work on the project, but you may not use the funds to provide a portion of a graduate assistantship or pay any portion of the student's tuition or fees.)</p> <p>Applicants cannot receive both a course release and a stipend but must instead budget for one or the other.</p> <p>Compensation for external research collaborators/co-authors.</p>
<p><i>Materials and Supplies:</i> Items required to conduct the project (e.g., expendable materials and supplies that are less than \$5,000) that are covered or provided by the department/unit.</p> <p>Do not use this line item to just replenish departmental stock.</p>	<p>Routine costs (administrative, supplies, etc.) that are a standard line item in departmental/center/college budgets.</p>
<p><i>Equipment or Instrumentation:</i> Funds may be used to purchase equipment that falls beyond the ordinary scope of departmental, divisional, center, or college funding. Such items are the property of the University but will be housed in the department or center of the award recipient once the funded project period is over. Applicants must justify why the award should cover such expenses rather than the department, center, or college.</p>	
<p><i>Travel:</i> Funds may be used to support travel costs (excluding meals) required for the performance of the project (fieldwork, access to archives, service sites, etc.).</p>	<p>Meal expenses or other food costs unless such items are required to conduct the proposed research project.</p>

Questions about costs not listed above should be addressed to: montg@fsmail.bradley.edu.

University Policy: Students cannot receive both compensation and course credit for the same effort. Students may receive compensation if the duties are in addition to their coursework as students. There must be a clear delineation between the coursework and the duties being performed for compensation. Work duties versus course assignments must be specifically documented, and there can be no overlap of responsibilities or the appearance thereof.