

School of Medicine - Medical Student Research Enhancement Program (MSREP)

Research Funding Program for Medical Students

The goal of the Medical Student Research Funding Program is to support our students who are committed to conducting clinical or basic science research as part of their medical education curriculum. To help achieve this goal, the School of Medicine has instituted a plan for funding medical student research. The program is open to medical students, and their research program can be continued throughout their time as students. This competitive program will require the medical student to identify a research mentor, and that the mentee and mentor submit a joint research proposal. The School of Medicine will provide up to \$5,000 for a funded research project per student per year. The student may request continued funding for their research by submission of a continuation grant that provides both a one-page progress report (listing any publications, presentations and grant proposals submitted), and a new application that will be evaluated.

Application requirements

1. Title page ([MSREP Grant Application form](#), see attachment)
 - a. Title of the research project
 - b. Applicant information
 - c. Faculty Sponsor Information
 - d. Signatures of applicant, mentor, and department head stating that they have read and approved this project
2. Abstract (limit of 250 words). The purpose of the abstract is to provide a brief description of the project goals.
3. Specific Aims. Provide a concise statement of the research aims to be addressed in the proposed study. This should be one page single-spaced, and should include a brief background, a description of the aims, and a statement of what new information will be provided by the study.
4. Research Strategy (***limit of 5 pages***). The goal of this section is to provide a detailed description of the rationale, experimental design, anticipated results and the problems and alternative approaches for the REP project (not necessarily for an entire extramural proposal).
 - a. Significance (recommend 1 page) The goal of this section is to present the rationale for the proposed research and to summarize the literature supporting this line of investigation.
 - b. Innovation (recommend ½ page)
 - c. Approach (recommended 2-3 pages)
 - i. Experimental design
 - ii. Anticipated results
 - iii. Problems and alternative approaches

5. Budget and budget justification ([Proposed Budget form, see attachment](#)). The maximum request is \$5,000 for the project. It may include supplies, equipment (if required), and other expenses (such as statistical support). The budget justification is important to indicate that the budget is appropriate for the scope of the study.
6. NIH-type Fellowship Biosketch of the student. A blank Biosketch template, instructions, and examples can be obtained in this [LINK](#). Students should follow the guidelines for the “Biosketch ([Fellowship](#)): Biographical Sketch Format Page - FORMS-H.”

Grant Deadlines

There will be two competitions per year. The deadlines are January 31st (**deadline has been extended to February 15th, 2025**) and July 31st.

Proposal Submission

The scanned title page (completed and signed by the student, faculty mentor, and department head), and an electronic version of the proposal should be submitted to the **Clinical Trials Office (cto@lsuhsc.edu) for evaluation with the subject line: “Medical Student Research Enhancement Program”**

Evaluation of the Proposals

Grant proposals will be reviewed by an evaluation committee of LSU Health Science Center research faculty. This grant review committee will operate in a manner similar to NIH study sections. The criteria to be evaluated will include (1) scientific merit and significance of the proposed project; (2) qualifications and productivity of the applicant and faculty mentor; (3) appropriateness of the budget. The committee will score proposals, and make a recommendation to the Dean of the School of Medicine.

Final Reports

At the completion of the project, a short 1-page report on the results of the research project must be submitted to the **Clinical Trials Office (cto@lsuhsc.edu) for with the subject line: **medical student research grant final report****. This report is the joint responsibility of the student and the faculty sponsor, and needs to include (1) a one paragraph description of the research findings, (2) a listing of papers, abstracts and presentations, and (3) any other scholarly activities that have resulted from this program.

Costs that are NOT supported by this mechanism:

Due to the limited funds available, some research-related costs are not supported by this funding. **Publications, but include** intended solely for the publication costs; publication costs are permitted only as result of the project (up to \$750)

2. Conference registration: permitted for student only; only as part of the project to attend a local or regional conference (up to \$200).
3. Salaries: Not allowable.
4. Student Travel: Not allowable
5. Membership Dues. Not allowable.
6. Visas and Passports. Not Allowable.