Montana Tech Research Catalyst Program, FY25

Description of Offerings

Track 1: New Faculty / Graduate Research Incentive. Provides seed funds to catalyze a new Montana Tech faculty member to engage in externally funded research and/or advise a graduate thesis.

Track 2, Good2Great: Provide seed funds for resubmission of a competitive, yet unfunded, proposal.

Track 3, Scholarship: Supports smaller activities that are not tied to external funding opportunities.

Track 4, New Interdisciplinary Initiatives: Supports a small group of diverse investigators (up to 5) in seeding a new collaborative effort that is anticipated to lead to a moderate (>$800K), multi-investigator, team proposal.

Eligibility and Size of Award

All: Faculty that have received an award from this program (in FY22 or after) must have submitted the planned proposal or paper/product/presentation to a be eligible for additional funds. Requests for student support should also consider campus opportunities (e.g. Undergraduate Research Program, the Chancellor's Distinguished Fellowship; departmental assistantship allocations; non-competitive cooperative agreements).

Track 1: Tenure-track and affiliate faculty that advise graduate students are eligible to apply. Faculty that are in their initial three years at Montana Tech are especially encouraged to apply. Faculty that are seeking to advise PhD students are especially encouraged to apply. Faculty that are looking to re-engage in graduate advising are also encouraged to apply.

Track 2: Revision/resubmission of a prior unfunded, competitive proposal is encouraged.

Track 3: Funding is open to all disciplines. Preference will be given to activities that are not possible without the funds and have no avenues to pursue external funding will receive priority. Funding is typically from $1000-$2500, with cost reimbursable activities.

Track 4: Team diversity in discipline, career stage, funding history, and other demographics is required.

Funding (Tracks 1,2,4): Award size will typically be up to $10,000 per investigator; a budget must be provided to justify budgets exceeding $10,000. Completion of the *Proposal Bootcamp* (please contact grants@mtech.edu) leads to eligibility for additional funds.

Selection: Proposals will be prioritized by a faculty/staff panel, with the panel chosen by the Deans.

Timeline: Initial announcement: September 9, 2024. There is an open/rolling deadline for review, with first awards anticipated around December 1, 2024. Submissions after end of Spring 2025 will be rolled over to the next academic year.

Submit: Complete the attached form, as described on the next page. Submit to kstevens@mtech.edu.

Montana Tech Research Catalyst Program, FY25: Submission Instructions

1. Overview (Tracks 1 and 2; Track 4)

	Planned Proposal (Track 1 and 2 and 4)	Prior Proposal (Track 2 only)
Submission date*		
Title		
Funding Agency		
Program or solicitation (with link)		
Total budget of external proposal		

* Will be confirmed with OSP to ensure eligibility for subsequent competitions.

2. Budget. Funds should only be spent on internal activities. ¶ Any unspent funds remaining after one year will be forfeited. Faculty salary and subcontracts will generally not be allowed.

	Internal resubmission proposal (insert $$)
Faculty salary / Subcontracts	Not allowed
Course support request**	
Student wages	
Other research staff support	
Materials and supplies	
Equipment use¶	
F&A	Not required (internal funds)
TOTAL FUNDS REQUESTED	

** The research office will provide funds for course support and/or teaching release: Discuss with, and attach approval from, Department Head and Dean. Discuss the budget for this item with Joanne Lee. Funds will be paid directly to the GSI or adjunct, and count toward the total seed fund budget. ¶External equipment may be allowed if this equipment is not available at Montana Tech, in which case a separate memorandum describing the equipment and plan for usage should be supplied.

3. Project Description (All Tracks). Include:
    a. Short description of the proposed work (<=2 pages)
    b. How the project will grow/enhance the mission of Montana Tech
    c. Proposed timeline for completion, with intermediate milestones
    d. [If applicable] Plans for support of graduate student stipends and waiver, along with synergistic opportunities that will be considered.
    e. Three discipline-specific reviewers or mentors for milestone check-ins
4. Review Analysis, Track 2. For enhanced prioritization, include:
    a. Identification and plan to address more critical reviewers' comments from a past submission (<=1 page). [You may wish to review the 'resubmission' background information on suggestions on how to analyze your reviews]
    b. Memo from a discipline-specific mentor, stating he/she has reviewed the project plan and that it is sufficient to address concerns raised in the original reviews.
    c. Previous version of submitted proposal. [Will not be shared outside of RO.]
    d. "Raw reviews". [Will not be shared outside of RO.]