

2026-27 NICHOLLS RESEARCH COUNCIL GRANT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The NSU Research Council disseminates available grant monies to Nicholls faculty for research and teaching/learning projects in all disciplines. The Council is made up of representatives from each college, the Library, the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP), the Office of Assessment and Institutional Research, and Academic Computing. Further information about the structure and mission of the Council can be found in the Faculty Handbook. Funds for research are to be viewed as “seed money” to undertake worthy projects that will lead to larger projects, external funding, publications, performances, exhibitions, or presentations while funds for scholarship of teaching/learning projects are to be used for the improvement and innovation of teaching strategies. The total amount of funding this fiscal year is estimated to be \$25,000 pending the final University budget and is expected to be divided up among 5 – 8 projects.

Proposals must be submitted via email to Research Council Chair Angele Davis (angele.davis@nicholls.edu) no later than **17 April 2026**. PI’s will be notified of award status in May before the end of the semester.

RFP Timeline

Proposal deadline	April 17, 2026
Award status notification deadline	May 15, 2025
Anticipated account creation & funding	End of August
Deadline for spending funds	April 17, 2027
Final report to Research Council Chair	June 30, 2027

Grant Eligibility

NSU Research council grants are available to any full-time faculty member at Nicholls State University. These funds are in place to support the research needs of the faculty and improvement in teaching, therefore, Nicholls retains intellectual property rights for all research and projects funded through these grants. Dissertation projects are excluded from funding because findings become the intellectual property of the institution granting the degree, however, funding is possible for separate projects that may arise from one’s dissertation work.

Budget Timeline and Considerations

These funds are provided through the General Operating budget of the University and disbursement of funding coincides with the Fiscal Year (**1 July 2026 to 30 June 27**). Because the funding is through the Operating Funds, access to grant funds may not be available until the end of August once the entire University budget has been finalized.

This grant does not provide funding for faculty, graduate students, or research associate salary. The only funding allowed for salary is to support undergraduate student workers at a rate of \$7.25 per hour. Because the students will be hired through university student employment, they can only be employed while enrolled in classes. Their employment cannot occur outside of the dates of employment

established by the university student employment office, which typically spans from the first day of classes to the last day of finals for each semester.

Grant Requirements

Expenditure of grant funds must follow all established state of Louisiana regulations. Because the grant funds originate from the university operating budget, the PI will be expected to have spent their supply and equipment funds by **15 April 2027** as the University begins to close out their accounts for the end of the fiscal year.

A final report must be submitted to angele.davis@nicholls.edu no later than **30 June 2027**. If a report is not submitted, then the PI will not be eligible for funding from the Nicholls Research Council.

Evaluation Criteria

Grants will be evaluated based on

- Project Goals (10%)
- Project Objectives and Timeline (10%)
- Significance (10%)
- Design (20%)
- Description of Expenditures (20%)
- Potential for Future Funding and/or Eminence (20%)
- Duties of Personnel (10%)

Proposal Documents

The electronic copy with signatures must be submitted to angele.davis@nicholls.edu by close-of-business on **17 April 2026**. Each application must contain the following elements in order:

1. **Approved and Signed Routing Form** – this form can be downloaded from the ORSP webpage.
2. **Abstract** – the abstract is limited to 400 words.
3. **Proposal Narrative** – Please limit this part of the application to 10 pages or less, if possible.
 - a. **Goals** – Goals are the overall result toward which the research/project is directed.
 - b. **Objectives and Timeline** – Objectives are the steps or actions to be taken to achieve the goals and must be stated in measurable terms. A timeline of steps to be taken is strongly recommended.
 - c. **Significance** – Why is this research important to your field of study, the region, or the University? Creative projects should address artistic or literary merit in this section.
 - d. **Design** – Research/project design is clear in the sciences. In arts and literature, address materials, techniques, form or organization, historical precedence, etc.
 - e. **Description of Expenditures** – include your budget and budget justifications forms here. Templates for the budget and budget justification can be downloaded from the ORSP website.
 - f. **Potential for Additional Funding or Eminence** – How can this research/project lead to future funding, publications, exhibitions, performances, or exposure?
 - g. **Duties of Personnel** – Outline the responsibilities of the Principal Investigator, Co-Investigator(s) and student workers.
 - h. **Bibliography**
4. **Curriculum Vitae (CV) of Investigator(s)** – each CV is limited to **two pages** and should only contain information relevant to the proposed project.
5. **Optional Items**
 - a. **Letters of Support**
 - b. **Preliminary Data and Effort** – Have you generated any preliminary data or conducted research that led to this project? Creative projects should be accompanied by samples of previous work.
 - c. **Other Attachments**