

Research Competitiveness Subprogram (RCS) 2024

Program Objective: The specific objective of the RCS is to solicit research proposals designed to build and strengthen the fundamental research base and competitiveness of Louisiana's universities. The proposed research must include fundamental (basic) research contributions rather than simply the application of existing knowledge.

The RCS is a stimulus program directed only toward those researchers who are at the threshold of becoming competitive on a consistent basis in the Federal R & D marketplace and who—with some assistance from the Support Fund to implement their plans to overcome whatever barriers they have identified which have stood in their way—clearly have a strong potential for enhancing their competitive status within a limited time span. For this reason, it is unlikely that researchers and/or research groups that are already established and federally funded (unless they are moving into a new field of research and also fit the above criteria) would be highly competitive. Junior researchers at the threshold of becoming competitive will be given priority over senior researchers who are changing research fields.

Established researchers that are already competitive and heavily funded are strongly encouraged to participate in research proposals submitted to the RCS in an advisory capacity, but they shall not receive funding under this subprogram. Those individuals or groups that have no previous funding records, but who wish to submit a proposal, are strongly encouraged to join with researchers who do have a history of Federal basic research funding research fields.

Program Types:

1. **RCS:**

- For projects lasting up to three years (start date June 1, 2025)
- Maximum request is \$200,000; the average first-year award in FY 2024 was \$48,597 with first-year awards ranging from \$25,793 to \$78,275

2. **RCS One-Year:**

- For projects lasting one year (June 1, 2025–June 30, 2026)
- Maximum request is \$20,000; the average award in FY 2024 was \$19,286 with awards ranging from \$18,000 to \$20,000

PI & Co-PI Eligibility:

- Only tenured, tenure-track, or research professors employed on a full-time basis by an eligible Louisiana institution of higher education may act as principal or co-principal investigators.
- **An eligible faculty member may serve as a principal or co-principal investigator on a maximum of one RCS grant at any one time.**
- While co-PIs are allowable, one and only one individual must be listed on the cover sheet as principal investigator.
- Individuals who received RCS or RCS One-Year awards in **last year's** competition are **not** eligible for this round of funding.
- Individuals who received RCS or RCS One-Year awards in the FY 2021-2022 or **earlier** competitions **are** eligible for this round of funding.

Eligible Disciplines:

All Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines are eligible on a rotating basis. Note that the topic of the research proposal should be used to determine eligibility, not the academic training of the potential applicant(s).

Eligible disciplines for 2024-2025 include:

- Chemistry
- Health & Medical Sciences
- Engineering B (Industrial, Materials, Mechanical, etc.)

RCS Funding Guidelines:

- PI salary & payroll benefits (25% academic year + 2 summer months)
- Student and support personnel
- Travel
- Supplies
- Publication costs
- Equipment (must include at least 25% cash match)
- Other expenses
- 25% F&A rate calculated only on salaries, wages, and payroll benefits

Cost Share:

- If requesting funds for equipment, proposal must include at least 25% in cash match for the equipment
- Unrecovered F&A may be included as cost share

Budget & Justification:

PIs should use either: (1) the [Budget Generator](#), which produces a budget *and* a justification, or (2) the Board of Regents Excel template provided on the [Office of Research's website](#) and a manually-drafted justification.

SUBMIT EARLY!

The Office of Research must review and submit ***all proposals for the University*** by the listed deadline.

Proposals will be processed in the order they are received.
Proposals received on the day of the deadline may not be submitted at all.

Relevant Deadlines:

Wednesday, September 11, 2024
Thursday, October 10, 2024
Tuesday, October 15, 2024
Thursday, November 7, 2024

BoR Notice of Intent due by **12:00 PM NOON** in LOGAN
[UNO Proposal Routing Form](#) due by 4:30 PM in Cognito
BoR Questions Final Date by 4:30 PM via email or phone
BoR Proposal due by **12:00 PM NOON** in LOGAN

For more information, you can access the RCS RFP [here](#).

With any questions, contact Julie Landry (jelandr1@uno.edu).

Checklist - RCS

1. Confirm Eligibility

- Tenured, tenure-track or research professors employed on a full-time basis
- Project is research based; budget is under \$200,000 and can be completed in three years

2. Administrative

- LOGAN account created
- [Proposal Routing form](#) submitted by Thursday, October 10, 2024
 - [Budget Generator](#) or template filled out
 - Budget Justification explains budget

3. Notice of Intent (completed in LOGAN)

- Cover Page web form – title of project, investigator name, amount requested
- Project Summary (250 words max)
- Submitted electronically via LOGAN by 12:00 PM noon on Wednesday, September 11, 2024

4. Final Proposal Submission (completed in LOGAN)

- Single Proposal Narrative PDF (15 pages max) with numbered pages and 1-inch margins includes:
 - “Rationale of the Project” section
 - “Research Plan” section
 - “Involvement and Qualifications of Investigators, Other Faculty, & Students” section
 - “Institutional Capabilities & Commitments” section
 - “Bibliography” (not included in page limit, but 2 pages max)
- Single Appendix PDF (15 pages max) includes, if applicable:
 - Attachments/Supplemental Information
 - Letters of Support
- Uploaded or entered into LOGAN:
 - Cover Page web form
 - Project Summary web form (250 words max)
 - Goals & Objectives PDF (1 page max)
 - Proposal Narrative PDF
 - Budget form
 - Budget Narrative/Justification PDF
 - [Current & Pending Support](#)
 - [Biographical Sketch](#) (2 pages max)
 - History of Support form (for last five years)
 - Appendix PDF (if applicable, see Section 8 in RFP)
- Submitted electronically via LOGAN by 12:00 PM noon on Thursday, November 7, 2024

Checklist – RCS One-Year

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4. Final Proposal Submission (completed in LOGAN)

- Single Proposal Narrative PDF (5 pages max) with numbered pages and 1-inch margins includes:
 - “Rationale of the Project” section
 - “Research Plan” section
 - “Involvement and Qualifications of Investigators, Other Faculty, & Students” section
 - “Institutional Capabilities & Commitments” section
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