



4-VA at GMU

Collaborative Research Grant Program

Request for Proposals Fall 2017

Background Information

4-VA is a collaborative partnership between six Virginia universities that is powered by 4 initiatives. Our mission is to promote collaborations that leverage the strengths of each partner university and improve efficiencies in higher education across the Commonwealth of Virginia. We carry out this mission by advocating unprecedented partnerships between faculty and departments to generate significant, innovative solutions to educational and real-world problems.

4-VA is made up of the following six universities:

- George Mason University
- James Madison University
- Old Dominion University
- University of Virginia
- Virginia Commonwealth University
- Virginia Tech

The function of 4-VA is to put ideas into action—inviting innovative collaboration across disciplinary boundaries, among the Virginia system of universities, and between educational and business sectors while achieving the following 4 initiatives:

1. Collaborative Research
2. Course Redesign
3. Course Sharing
4. Degree Completion

As a part of 4-VA, each university has developed unique programs to fulfill these initiatives based on their respective strengths and resources to achieve the following:

- Increase the research competitiveness of partner universities for external funding
- Increase opportunities and enhance the success rate of students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) courses and programs
- Redesign courses to improve student outcomes and reduce instances of D, F, and withdrawals (W)
- Significantly expand access for all Virginians to programs, preparing them for rewarding careers

The 4-VA at GMU Collaborative Research Grant Program is designed to advance these goals with specific grant initiatives that also enhance the priorities and interests of GMU.

Collaborative Research Initiative – Grant Proposal Information

The collaborative grant research program is intended to improve research competitiveness within the commonwealth and at GMU by providing funding for faculty to engage in pilot research focused on 4-VA goal areas that could be used as a springboard for subsequent, major federal grants. Collaboration with a

researcher at one of the 4-VA partner institutions is strongly desired, as is active dissemination of the research findings. Research proposals could also directly lead to course redesign. Funding amounts are expected to range from **\$5,000 to \$20,000 per grant**, not including complementary funding that may be supplied by partner institutions.

Who May Apply?

- Grants are available to full-time faculty or administrative faculty
- Faculty members who have received previous 4-VA grants may be eligible for additional funds, but **preference will be given to new research projects.**

Required materials

1. [This cover sheet](#) with title, unit, and signatures.
2. A statement—no more than three pages—that gives the rationale for the research grant and addresses each of the following questions:
 - a. How does your grant proposal address the goals of 4-VA? Please provide a project summary and identify what initiatives are being addressed.
 - b. Who is involved in your grant proposal? **All participants must be listed and their roles in the grant delineated, including researchers from other institutions.**
 - c. What is the nature of your collaboration? **Projects that extend to at least one of the other 4-VA institutions will be given funding priority.**
 - d. What will your measures or indicators for success be with this project?
 - i. *Active dissemination is expected to be a major project component. To be competitive for funding, projects should have a defined dissemination plan for the 4-VA community that includes ongoing project updates and dissemination of findings. For example, 4-VA grant recipients are encouraged to submit a presentation proposal to the annual *Innovations in Teaching and Learning Conference*.*
 - e. What roles, if applicable, will be available to graduates or undergraduates to participate in this research grant and how will they be selected? **NOTE:** OSCAR will directly receive any funds designated for undergraduate researchers.
 - f. If you have received a previous 4-VA grant, please identify the dissemination activity associated with that project.
3. A timeline for developing, implementing, and assessing the project. Projects that do not have articulated strategies for assessing success, or outcomes will not be considered. Provide a budget with budget justification that clearly describes the funding needed. Please break the budget down into the categories listed below. Depending on state funding, and successful reported results, projects may be extended for up to 2 years. **NOTE:** Purchased materials must be directly related to the research grant. Food or clothing purchases, for example, **must be approved by the Mason 4-VA campus coordinator.**

Category	Spring 2018	Summer 2018	Fall 2018
Faculty Stipends	\$	\$	\$
Graduate Student Stipends	\$	\$	\$
Undergraduate Research (OSCAR)	\$	\$	\$
Materials (list)	\$	\$	\$
Other (list)	\$	\$	\$

Grant Process Timeline

1. The principal investigator (PI) submits a grant proposal in PDF form to Marcy Glover, Deputy Campus Coordinator, at mglover2@gmu.edu.
2. The Mason 4-VA Advisory Board reviews submitted proposals.
3. The 4-VA Campus Coordinator (Associate Provost Janette Muir) finalizes grant approvals.
4. Grantees are notified of outcomes.
5. Funds for approved grants are released to the grantee(s) and grant work is permitted to commence.
6. Grantees comply with reporting and accountability requirements throughout the duration of the grant, as stipulated in the award letter.

Deadlines

- Proposals accepted: **September 18-October 18, 2017**
- Award notification: **November 17, 2017**
- Dispersal of funds: **December 15, 2017**