

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES SUMMER RESEARCH INITIATIVE

Program Goal

The African American Studies Summer Research Initiative is intended to support faculty research in African American Studies. Like the University Research Grant, the AAS Program defines research as “a formal procedure which contributes to the expansion of knowledge or applies such knowledge to the solution of problems in society or exemplifies creative expression in a specific field of study. The results of research must be communicated to professionals outside the University through a peer review process in a manner appropriate to the discipline.”

Award Purposes

1. AAS seeks to encourage faculty research related to African Americans,
2. Encourage the development of research agendas of pre-tenured faculty while supporting the ongoing research agendas of tenured faculty,
3. Foster an inclusive and supportive intellectual life at the University.

Award

The AAS Summer Research Initiative is a \$1,500 grant, awarded to the recipient by the conclusion of the fiscal year (June 30).

Eligibility

Current Tenure Track faculty engaged in a specific research project or a specific creative/artistic project that explores some aspect of African American life, politics, history, or cultural/artistic expression. Projects may have either a contemporary or historical focus. African American Studies is an interdisciplinary field. Faculty from all academic disciplines who are engaged in the scholarly study of African Americans are encouraged to apply.

Limitations

1. Faculty members who receive the AAS Summer Research Initiative are not eligible to apply the following year.
2. Recipients who resign from the University or are terminated by the University prior to the conclusion of the fiscal year, forfeit eligibility for the Summer Research Initiative. In the event of the above, AAS will reallocate the award funds.

Accountability

Recipients must lead/deliver a public address on the research project for which they were awarded the AAS Research Initiative.

Recipients who fail to deliver the public address by the due date (December 15) will be ineligible for future AAS Research Initiative Grants for *three* years.

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Evaluation Criteria

Grant research proposals must be in support of either a specific scholarly research project or a specific creative/artistic project. Applicants must detail the project's significance to their specific area of study, its benefits to the faculty member's professional and intellectual profile, and the relevance of this project to their course offerings.

1. *Clarity of purpose and focus*

The proposal must clearly articulate a statement of the research or creative effort the applicant intends to undertake.

2. *Significance of research or creative effort in the field of African American Studies*

A) With reference to scholarship, the proposal must indicate the need for the proposed work, its significance for the discipline, and the gap in scholarship it will fill.

OR

B) With reference to projects centered on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SOTL), proposals should indicate the project's value to the faculty member's course offerings related to the study of African Americans.

3. *Objectives of research or creative effort*

In a manner appropriate to the discipline, the proposal must clearly describe the research or creative objectives. These objectives may be stated as research questions, hypotheses, thesis statements, anticipated conclusions, or projected creative goals, and must be linked to the project's purpose and focus.

4. *Clarity and adequacy of research/creative plan*

In a manner appropriate to the discipline and—where appropriate—supported by citation of prior literature, the proposal must describe the research or creative plan, methodology, or approach by which project objectives will be achieved. In cases where more than one person will work on a project, the proposal must discuss each person's contribution.

Application Materials Due February 15, 2020

- 1. Current CV**
- 2. Research Proposal, 2,000 Words Maximum**
- 3. Abstract of Research, 250 Words Maximum**
- 4. Short Bibliography (if applicable), 4page Maximum**

Outcomes Due Before December 15, 2020

- 1. Public address (lecture or discussion) on the grant recipient's research project.**

Applications should be submitted to: africanamericanstudies@ilstu.edu

Please CC: tfreed@ilstu.edu and bmbanks@ilstu.edu

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