The UM ORSP Investment Grants Program (UM ORSP-IG) Round 2
Request for Proposals, Spring 2016

Program Summary: ORSP will conduct a 2nd competitive round of ORSP Investment Grants (ORSP-IG) to stimulate sustainable, competitive research and scholarship by:
- facilitating preliminary data collection or external funding applications
- improving grantsmanship and increasing competitiveness for external grants
- facilitating collaborations among diverse scholar/researchers
- providing opportunities to mentor/supervise students in research—especially undergraduates and all students from underrepresented groups
- promoting scholarly activities aligning with UM strategic goals and initiatives
- supporting activities that lead to the advancement of UM faculty/researchers

What's New in Round 2?

Pre-Proposals. Unlike Round 1, in which there was a Required Pre-Proposal Phase followed by an Invited Full Proposal stage, *Round 2 pre-proposals are strictly optional.* ORSP Research Development personnel will review and provide initial feedback on any pre-proposals received by 2/7.

Shorter full proposals. Biosketches" and "Other Support" forms are not required in Round 2, and the Project Description is now limited to 4 pages.

Review Criteria changes. "Prior PI Compliance" has been eliminated and "State or National Impacts" has been increased in weight from 5% to 10%.

Online submission process. Round 2 will use the new Ole Miss InfoReady Review Portal for receiving proposals, conducting reviews, and providing feedback. This should result in fewer errors, easier reviews, and faster feedback to proposers.

Available funding. In Round 1, ORSP received 67 pre-proposals, 20 full proposals and made 11 awards ranging from ~$2,500 to ~$10,000, totaling ~$58,000. For Round 2, we anticipate awarding about half as much—perhaps $25K to $30K total.

Topics of particular interest. As was the case in Round 1, ORSP invites and will consider proposals on any topic of research, scholarly, or creative interest. However, in Round 2, we are especially interested in seeing proposals related to research, scholarship, and creativity in the area of race.

Encouraging Collaboration. In order to encourage collaborative proposals, each eligible investigator may be listed as a PI or co-PI in up to two proposals. A maximum of one proposal may be a solo/independent investigator project.

Key Dates:

1/18/2016	MLK Jr. Day	RFP Announced
2/7/2016	Super Bowl Sunday	Optional Pre-Proposals for Initial Feedback
2/14/2016	Valentine's Day	Feedback for Pre-Proposals Sent
2/29/2016	Leap Day	Full Proposals Due
4/1/2016	April Fools' Day	Awardees Announced; Scores/Feedback Provided

Qualifications: To be eligible for consideration for an ORSP-IG Round 2 award as a proposer/PI or co-PI, individuals or team members must meet these qualifications:

- Only permanent UM employees who are eligible to serve as a PI on a UM sponsored project (per UM Policy Number 10000651: Definition of a Principal Investigator) may submit or be listed as a PI or co-PI on a Round 2 ORSP-IG proposal/award.
- Round 2 proposed PIs and co-PIs must not be named investigators (PI or co-PI) on any currently active (i.e., Round 1) ORSP-IG awards.

Limits:

- Each eligible UM researcher/scholar may submit no more than one proposal as a sole investigator and may be listed as a named investigator (PI or co-PI) in up to two ORSP-IG Round 2 proposals (*e.g., an investigator can be listed as a PI or co-PI in two collaborative proposals, or in one collaborative and one solo proposal, or in only one proposal—be it collaborative or solo.*)
- Each proposal may have only one PI but multiple co-PIs. Generally, four co-PIs would be considered the maximum; projects listing more than four co-PIs should justify this need/choice in the proposal narrative.
- Meaningful participation by undergraduate and graduate students on ORSP-IG projects is strongly encouraged. There is no limit to the number of students, named or unnamed, that may participate in a proposed project.

Funding: Proposals with budgets ranging from $500 to $10,000 will be considered. Funding is limited, so please ask for only what is needed to complete the proposed project. ORSP expects to make perhaps 1-2 awards in the $6,000 to $10,000 range, 2-4 awards in the $3,000 - $6,000 range, and 4-8 awards in the $500 - $3,000 range. These numbers could be higher or lower, depending upon available funding at award time, as well as the budget distribution of proposals that receive competitive scores.

Award Conditions and Reporting Requirements: All ORSP-IG project personnel will be required to have completed UM's Responsible Conduct of Research training prior to award funds being released. Prospective applicants who have not already completed RCR training should begin soon, in order to prevent delays in the award. Each ORSP-IG PI will submit a brief quarterly progress report to ORSP and a final report at the end of the project and must respond to a follow-up questionnaire from ORSP related to grant outcomes. Awardees may be asked to share these outcomes with UM colleagues at the annual joint UM/UMMC Research Day or through other venues.

Optional Preproposal for Initial Feedback: ORSP Research Development personnel will to review and provide feedback on 1-page pre-proposals received by 2/7.

Proposal Preparation Instructions: Proposers should download and complete the ORSP IG Application Form from http://research.olemiss.edu/IG. Use 1-inch margins and 12-point font for narrative text. Each proposal will consist of the following sections: a 1-page **Cover Sheet**; a 1-page **Project Summary**; a **Project Description** of up to 4 pages (including any references); and a **Budget and Budget Justification** (1 page). In additional to the proposal document, the following documents are required:

- a 1-page **Letter of Support** from the proposer's Chair, Director, or Dean; and
- one PDF document containing up to four pages of **Supplementary Documents**.

Allowable supplementary documents include ORSP-prepared Review Summaries (summaries of original sponsor reviews of unsuccessful funding proposals[1]) and individual Letters of Commitment from proposed collaborators.

Submitting the Proposal: All proposals (and optional pre-proposals) should be submitted using the Ole Miss InfoReady Review Portal at https://olemiss.infoready4.com/. First time portal users will first need to register for an InfoReady account by clicking the Register link at the top right corner of the portal. Once logged into the portal, find the competition called "ORSP Investment Grants Round 2," read the Description, download and complete the application form, then click Apply to begin to upload your application, and click Submit when done. Up to three documents will be uploaded: **Proposal** (including Cover Sheet, Project Summary, Project Description, Budget and Budget Justification); **Letter of Support**; and **Supplementary Documents**.

Review Process and Volunteers: ORSP seeks volunteers from the UM research community and beyond to read, score, and provide feedback on proposals according to the review criteria outlined here and using a corresponding rubric provided by ORSP. Depending on the number of reviewer/volunteers, each proposal will be independently reviewed and scored by 3 to 5 individuals, most or all of whom will _not_ be experts in the discipline(s) of the proposing individual/team, but many of whom _will be_ experienced in writing competitive proposals. If volunteers are scarce, ORSP senior personnel may assist with the reviews. ORSP will review and compile the scores and feedback, select the awardees from among the highest scoring proposals, and return the reviewers' scores and feedback to all proposers. To volunteer as an ORSP-IG Round 2 reviewer, please e-mail Jason Hale at jghale@olemiss.edu.

Review Criteria

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[1] Any UM researcher/scholar may at any time request, through their ORSP PDS, an ORSP summary of a sponsor's reviews of that researcher's proposal. These may take up to three weeks to prepare/return.

Intellectual Merit (20%): The proposal appears to demonstrate potential to build upon and advance established knowledge—expressed in a way that educated lay readers can understand the project at a high level.

Soundness of Plan and Reasonableness of Request (20%): Does the project seem doable with available resources (personnel, time, equipment, money)? Is there a realistic timeline? Is the budget sufficient but not excessive to achieve the stated objectives? Is it clear what the funds are being spent for and why? Will funds enable activities not possible without this grant? Is the request reasonable given other resources that should reasonably be expected to be available to the proposer/team?

Institutional Impacts (20%): Will proposed activities demonstrably advance institutional goals, including those in the UM2020 Strategic Plan[2] or the Extended Sensitivity and Respect Committee recommendations[3]? (*e.g., create a culture of research excellence related to race; increase the role of graduate students in research and innovation; increase collaborative research, scholarship, & innovation; increase success in garnering competitive grants; stimulate undergraduate research*)

Development Impacts (10%): The likelihood that this project will lead to a research program that will be self-sustaining (*e.g., competitive for external grants and contracts*) and/or that it will help the applicant achieve promotion.

Measurable Objectives (10%): The proposal establishes objectives and is likely to achieve outcomes that can be independently measured one year out and three years out. *(e.g., submit a proposal to sponsor that is recommended for funding, etc.)*

Grantsmanship (10%): The clarity of the proposal in conveying the goals, objectives, activities, and outcomes. Is the proposal easy to read by educated lay readers? Is it professionally written? Well organized?

State or National Impacts (10%): Do proposed activities align with and advance high priorities of U.S. national interest and documented goals and initiatives of the State of Mississippi, including the MS Science and Technology Plan[4], Blueprint Mississippi[5], the MS Development Authority, the MS Energy Institute[6], and/or MDA target industries?[7]

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[2] UM 2020 Strategic Plan: http://um2020.olemiss.edu
[3] Report, Findings, and Recommendations of the Extended Sensitivity and Respect Committee:
http://www.olemiss.edu/depts/chancellor/sandrfiles/SR%20Committee%20Report%20and%20Response.pdf
[4] The Mississippi Science & Technology Plan: http://research.olemiss.edu/MissScienceAndTechPlan
[5] Blueprint Mississippi: http://www.msmec.com/blueprint-mississippi
[6] The Mississippi Energy Institute: http://www.mei.ms
[7] Mississippi Development Authority Targets: http://www.mississippi.org/locate-here/target-industries/