THE RESEARCH REVIEW

A Monthly Newsletter by The Office of Research Administration

NEWS

Pre-Award Services

- Get Matched with Funding That Fits Your Research!
- Rediscovering Our Revolutionary Tradition
- Mathematical Foundations of Artificial Intelligence, Human Services, and Education
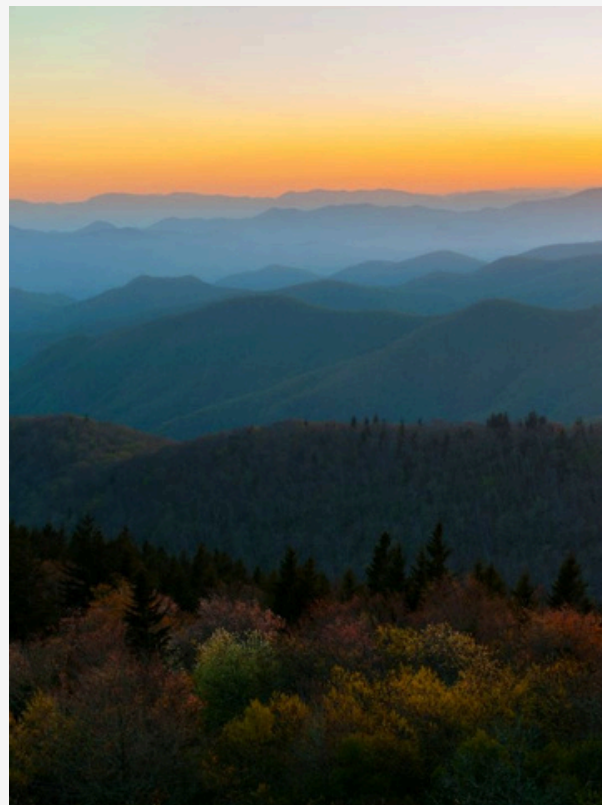
Post-Award Services

- Don't Forget to Submit Your Sponsor-Required Progress or Final Reports

Compliance

- Compliance Presentations
- Post-Approval Monitoring (PAM)
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Student Research

- SoCon Undergraduate Research Forum (SURF) Conference Returns
- CATALYST Program Builds Momentum in Year Two

RESTORING THROUGH RESEARCH

Hurricane Helene stormed into North Carolina on Friday, Sept. 27 and wreaked unprecedented havoc over the following three days. Thousands of homes and miles of roadways were swept away by the floodwaters. Tens of thousands more homes were damaged, displacing families.

READ MORE...

Research Data Dive

View the Data of WCU's Research Pursuits

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PRE-AWARD SERVICES NEWS

Get Matched with Funding That Fits Your Research!

Share your interests in Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities (RSCA) using the form linked below, and we will utilize your responses to tailor funding searches, programming, and networking support through our campus.

RSCA Interest Form

Funding Opportunity: Rediscovering Our Revolutionary Tradition

To commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the National Endowment for the Humanities is offering up to $350,000 for two-year projects that preserve and expand access to primary sources documenting the nation's founding and development. Eligible materials include archival records, rare publications, photographs, art, and more. Projects should focus on the history of American independence and nation-building, or the evolution of American government at the federal, state, or local level.

Application Deadline: September 4, 2025

Click here to learn more

Collaborative Funding Opportunity: Mathematical Foundations of Artificial Intelligence

The National Science Foundation seeks proposals for collaborative, interdisciplinary research that advances the mathematical and theoretical underpinnings of AI. With awards ranging from $500,000 to $1.5 million over three years, this program supports projects that develop principled, mathematically grounded approaches to AI design and analysis—fostering explainable, trustworthy, and socially responsible AI.

Proposals must focus on foundational mathematical and statistical theory, while also addressing relevance to real-world applications. Teams should include expertise from mathematics/statistics, computer science, engineering, and social and behavioral sciences, as appropriate.

Application Deadline: October 10, 2025

Click here to learn more

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POST-AWARD NEWS

Don't Forget to Submit Your Sponsor-Required Progress or Final Reports

The majority of research grants have requirements for progress or final reports to be submitted by the PI. Sponsors rely on progress and final reports to track milestones, evaluate results, and ensure that funding is used as intended. Submitting these reports on time is critical to maintaining compliance and preserving good standing for future funding opportunities.

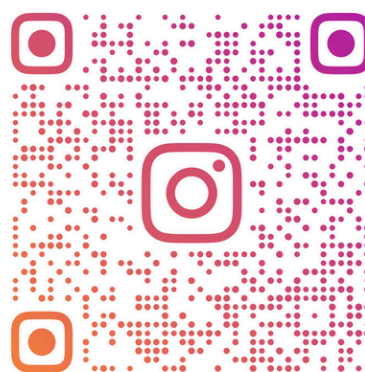Each award comes with specific requirements, which can be found in the following ways:

- Awarded contract/agreement
- Kickoff Meeting Form found in your Microsoft Teams folder

Missing report deadlines can result in serious consequences, including delays in funding, difficulty with renewals, or noncompliance issues. The Post Award team is here to help you navigate the requirements and make sure you stay on track.

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COMPLIANCE NEWS

Compliance Presentations

The Compliance unit is available to give presentations for classes or faculty groups upon request.
- Sessions can be customized to address specific compliance topics, including:
  - IRB (Institutional Review Board)
  - IACUC (Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee)
  - Export Control
  - Responsible Conduct of Research
- Presentations can be scheduled to support instructional goals or departmental training needs.

To arrange a session, contact: Mallory Ball, mball@wcu.edu

Post-Approval Monitoring (PAM)

The Office of Research Administration's Research Compliance unit has begun conducting Post–Approval Monitoring (PAM) of **non–exempt** IRB studies.

- Monitoring will be conducted on a random selection of studies.
- Notification: If your study is selected for monitoring, a member of the Research Compliance unit will reach out to you directly to schedule the monitoring visit.

For questions, contact: IRB@wcu.edu

Research Security Training

NSF requires Research Security training for all NSF–funded researchers effective May 2025.
- Included in the 2025 Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG)
  - Training Provider: citiprogram.org

For questions, contact: Mallory Ball, mball@wcu.edu

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STUDENT RESEARCH NEWS

SoCon Undergraduate Research Forum (SURF) Conference Returns

The Southern Conference (SoCon) Academic Exchange is proud to announce that the annual SoCon Undergraduate Research Forum (SURF) Conference will be held on **October 24–25, 2025**, on the campus of Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC. This multidisciplinary conference will bring together approximately 150 student presenters from all ten colleges/universities of the SoCon for a two-day event that features projects in the arts and humanities, as well as the STEM disciplines.

SURF 2025 is an awesome opportunity for all students involved in research and creative activities, particularly for those involved in these activities this summer, to display their accomplishments in a variety of small, welcoming venues.

The application for SURF 2025 will be emailed to departments in August 2025. The deadline for students to submit their presentation abstracts is **Monday, September 15, 2025**.

CATALYST Program Builds Momentum in Year Two: Empowering Students Through Early Research and Leadership Engagement

The CATALYST: Summer Research and Leadership Program is set to welcome its second cohort of incoming honors students on June 24, 2025, following freshman orientation. This initiative, launched in summer 2024, is a collaborative effort between the Office of Research Administration and the Brinson Honors College.

CATALYST is a week-long immersive experience designed for incoming Honors College students. Participants stay on campus and engage in sessions that spark interest in undergraduate research and explore the intersection of research and leadership—two core touchstones of the Brinson Honors College.

Read about the program in last year's Research Magazine