

THE RESEARCH REVIEW

A Monthly Newsletter by The Office of Research Administration

NEWS

Pre-Award Services

- Ask the Experts!
- Don't Forget Your College Approvals!
- Build Strong Data Management & Sharing Plans with DMPTool

Post-Award Services

- Post-Award Services Feedback

Compliance

- IRB Quick Links: Managing Your Study in InfoEd
- Summer Travel – Export Control

Student Research

- Culminating Graduate Student Research Projects Defended in Spring 2026
- SURF Save the Date



**WCU HEALTH SCIENCES FACULTY
MEMBER RECEIVES \$840K GRANT FOR
RESEARCH CONSORTIUM**

Caitlin Torrence, professor in Western Carolina University's College of Health and Human Sciences, recently received an \$840,000 grant to fund a Health Policy Research Consortium over the next two years.

The consortium, made up of the University of North Carolina at Asheville, Appalachian State University, East Tennessee State University, and the WNC Health Network, will conduct research within the community targeted around four focus areas: mental health, food security, substance abuse and housing.

[Read more.](#)

Research Data Dive

[View the Data of WCU's Research Pursuits](#)



Office of Research
Administration

THE RESEARCH REVIEW

A Monthly Newsletter by The Office of Research Administration

PRE-AWARD SERVICES NEWS

Ask the Experts!

Do you have questions about proposal development, funding opportunity searches, sponsor requirements, or proposal timelines? We invite you to reach out to our team. No question is too small! We're here to help you navigate the funding landscape and strengthen your proposals. Submit your questions, and let us support your next funding pursuit.

[Ask the Pre-Award Team](#)

Don't Forget Your College Approvals!

Before submitting a proposal for internal review and approval, ensure that all required college-level approval forms have been completed and signed. Taking care of these approvals in advance helps prevent last-minute delays and keeps your proposal moving forward. Use the links below to access the required forms:

- [College of Arts and Sciences](#)
- [College of Education and Allied Professions](#)
- [David Orr Belcher College of Fine and Performing Arts](#)

Build Strong Data Management & Sharing Plans with DMPTool

Need help developing a Data Management and Sharing Plan? DMPTool is a free online resource that guides researchers through the creation of sponsor-compliant plans using templates tailored to federal agency requirements. The tool also provides access to publicly shared plans, allowing you to explore real examples and identify best practices as you develop your own. Whether you're preparing a proposal or updating an existing plan, DMPTool can help streamline the process and ensure alignment with sponsor expectations. Access the resource below to get started.

DMPTool: <https://dmptool.org/>

THE RESEARCH REVIEW

A Monthly Newsletter by The Office of Research Administration

POST-AWARD NEWS

POST-AWARD SERVICES FEEDBACK

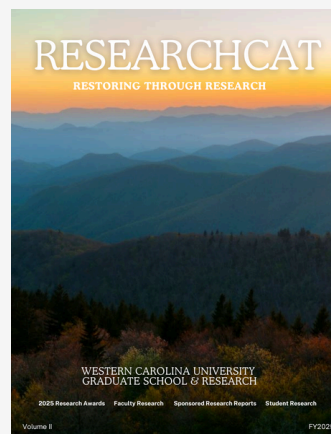
As we approach the end of the fiscal year, WCU's Post-Award unit wants to hear from key stake holders across campus. Your feedback is crucial for WCU's Post-Award unit to uphold its mission to provide the best support to all University staff engaged in sponsored projects or programs.

The form can be accessed by the following hyperlink: [WCU Post-Award Services Feedback Survey – Fill out form](#)

This survey should take ~5–7 minutes to complete. When you submit this form, it will not automatically collect your details like name and email address unless you provide it yourself.

We appreciate your support as we strive to provide the best service possible. We look forward to reviewing your responses!

CHECK OUT OUR RESEARCH MAGAZINE!



THE RESEARCH REVIEW

A Monthly Newsletter by The Office of Research Administration

COMPLIANCE NEWS

IRB Quick Links: Managing Your Study in InfoEd

Navigating next steps in the IRB process? Use the guidance below to ensure your submissions are completed correctly:

Responding to requested revisions:

Use this guide when the IRB has asked for changes to your submission

→ [Respond to Changes Requested by the IRB Reviewer](#)

Making changes to an approved study:

Use this process to request updates after approval

→ [Submit a Modification to an Approved Protocol](#)

Renewing or closing your study:

For full board studies requiring continuing review, or when your study is complete

→ [Complete a Continuing Review or Study Closure](#)

If you're unsure which pathway applies, reach out to our office—we're happy to help ensure your submission is routed correctly.

For questions, contact: Billy Hutchings – Research Compliance Officer, at wshutchings@wcu.edu

Summer Travel – Export Control

- As summer international travel increases, faculty and staff are reminded to consider export control and research security requirements prior to departure.
 - University-owned laptops, research data, proprietary information, encrypted software, and certain research materials may be subject to federal export control regulations.
- Most WCU personnel only encounter export control when traveling internationally. If you are planning to travel internationally, please review [University Policy 100](#), complete the [Policy 100 form](#) with approval from your Department, and include your detailed itinerary.
- Faculty and staff who plan to invite international visitors/scholars to visit our campus must obtain the Provost's approval prior to the visit using the [International Visitor Approval Form](#), which asks for a copy of the visitor's itinerary and any technical data or university-owned equipment being shared with the visitor.
- Travelers are encouraged to contact ORA before travel to discuss any potential export control considerations and ensure compliance with applicable regulations.

For questions, contact: ORA Director Kloo Hansen, at kchansen@wcu.edu

THE RESEARCH REVIEW

A Monthly Newsletter by The Office of Research Administration

STUDENT RESEARCH NEWS

Culminating Graduate Student Research Projects Defended in Spring 2026

The Graduate School would like to recognize thirty-seven students from the following programs who successfully defended culminating research projects during the Spring 2026 term and are now fully published in ProQuest. You can view their names and full project titles in [the "Spring 2026 Thesis and Disquisition Project" presentation](#).

- Biology M.S. (2)
- Chemistry M.S. (2)
- Educational Leadership Ed.D. (6)
- English M.A. (4)
- Experiential Outdoor Education M.S. (7)
- Fine Arts M.F.A. (5)
- History (3)
- Psychology M.A. (6)
- Specialist in School Psychology S.S.P. (2)

SURF Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for the **SoCon Undergraduate Research Forum (SURF) 2026**, happening **October 9 – 10** at Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina!

Hosted by the Southern Conference (SoCon) Academic Exchange, SURF is a dynamic, multidisciplinary conference that brings together around 150 student presenters from all ten SoCon institutions. From the arts and humanities to STEM, students showcase their research and creative work in engaging, supportive environments.

Why participate?

- Share your research or creative projects
- Connect with peers across the SoCon
- Gain presentation experience in welcoming, small-group settings
- No registration fee
- Most expenses covered upon acceptance
- Meals provided during much of the conference
- This is a fantastic opportunity—especially for students involved in summer research—to highlight your work and represent your institution.

Be on the lookout for the application this fall!

For questions, contact Suzanne Melton, Research Programs Coordinator, at scmelton@wcu.edu