

CALL FOR PROPOSALS - 2025

January 13, 2025

The Robert H. Brooks Sports Science Institute at Clemson University is pleased to announce a call for proposals for our 9th annual seed grant program, now renamed the “Collaborative Grants Program,” with a budget cap of \$30,000 for 1 year.



The purpose of these collaborative grants is to support faculty and partnerships that accelerate researchers' abilities to address significant scientific and societal problems associated with sport and improve the human condition through sport, broadly defined. They should increase research productivity as evidenced by the future submission of significant external research proposals, the receipt of significant research awards, and the production of scientific publications and/or other research products. They should ideally include multiple faculty members and/or students, multiple disciplines and perhaps researchers and participants from other institutions, so long as Clemson is listed as the primary/lead institution on the proposal submission.

The collaboration grants will be reviewed, generally, by the Associate Deans for Research (ADRs) in the colleges represented by our cohort of faculty fellows in addition to a key representative from Athletics. Given the expected interdisciplinary nature of the reviewers, proposals should be written in a conversational manner targeted at scientist reviewers who may have a working knowledge of the field, but not be experts in the proposed research areas.

Project proposal requests should NOT exceed \$30,000 (this is a cap, not a target) and reasonably align with the funds needed to successfully complete the proposed work. No F&A or GAD costs are allowed in the budget. Cost-share by departments, such as additional funds, instrument time, release time or student support is encouraged but not required. If departmental cost-share is included, please explain what is being provided and the chart string to be used in the budget justification section.

Principal Investigators must work with their college-sponsored programs support center to submit their proposals through the InfoEd portal in accordance with college-sponsored programs support center procedures to the Robert H. Brooks Sports Science Institute (BSSI: Applied). If the proposal requires the use of Clemson University Athletics Department resources, e.g., student-athlete participation, facility use or sponsorship, Principal Investigators are required to submit a Request for Athletic Department Participation in Research form as part of the InfoEd approval process.

All applicable Research Compliance reviews (such as Institutional Review Board, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, and so forth) can be found at <http://www.clemson.edu/research/compliance/> and must be completed by all awardees prior to the release of funds.

Finalists may be required to make a brief (5-minute) presentation to the review panel outlining the proposed project.

Deadline for Submission: Friday, March 28, 2025

Funding Available: (approximately) August 1, 2025

Submission of proposals: Applicants should submit a 3-page proposal narrative that includes:

1. Description of the project.
2. Description of the project team.
3. Statement of need for the project.
4. Methods to be used.
5. Timeline for project completion.
6. Brief budget summary with justification.
7. References should be included and do not count towards the 3-page limit.
8. A separate internal budget worksheet (provided by your college) and detailed justification should be included, and also do not count towards the 3-page limit.

Keys to successful proposals are:

1. No more than a 3-page proposal, plus a separate budget sheet and references.
2. Letters of support from collaborators tied specifically to the project if needed.
3. Potential for highest quality social and scientific research.
4. Potential for great impact:
 - a. Future funding,
 - b. Impact on understanding sports-related social and scientific issues,
 - c. Recognition and enhanced visibility to Clemson University and RHBSSI.
5. A multi-disciplinary approach to the issue at hand.
6. Inclusion of both academic and athletic professionals, involvement and context.
7. Likelihood of successful, on-time completion.

Questions about the rationale and practical matters related to this grants program can be directed to Interim Director, John DesJardins, Ph.D. at jdesjar@clemson.edu. For budgeting assistance, please contact your college-sponsored programs support center. This is particularly important in cases that involve institutions outside of Clemson University.

Respectfully and Go Tigers,



John D. DesJardins Ph.D.
Hambright Distinguished Professor in Engineering Leadership
Interim Director, Robert H. Brooks Sports Science Institute



2025 Collaborative Grants | Terms & Guidelines

The following terms and guidelines have been outlined for collaborative grants awarded by the Robert H. Brooks Sports Science Institute (RHBSSI) in Fiscal Year 2026.

Awards Cycle:

Funding for collaborative grants will be active for one year from the start date identified in the award letter, typically August 1 of the funding year.

Use of Funds and Funded Effort:

Budget expenditures and the efforts of funded personnel should be executed in accordance with the stated aims and the budget listed in the funded proposal. Documentation of all expenditures and funded effort is expected in the annual report. Deviations in budget expenditures will negatively impact requests for no-cost extensions and the eligibility for funding of future proposals.

Eligible uses of funds:

Funding may be used for a variety of activities including, but not limited to:

- 1) Graduate stipends.
- 2) Software, equipment or facility access to acquire key data.
- 3) Database access and/or development.
- 4) Travel to engage program managers or to meet with collaborators from other institutions to work on proposal planning, or other travel required to present research and/or achieve successful outcomes.
- 5) Research subject stipends.
- 6) Journal submission fees and other publication costs.
- 7) This funding is NOT intended for faculty salaries.

Reporting Requirements:

RHBSSI will provide a reporting template to PIs which should be filled out and returned no later than 30-days BEFORE the end of the grant term. A detailed accounting of completed aims and outcomes is expected. An accounting of expended funds and effort is expected in alignment with the funded goals. These annual reviews will be evaluated and be used in consideration of any no-cost extension requests and eligibility for funding of future proposals.

Funding Extension Requests:



With the submission of the annual report, if needed, the PI can request a one-time, six-month, no-cost extension. Following review of the annual report, if the project outcomes and budget are in good standing, the no-cost extension may be granted. Outstanding deliverables must be outlined in detail in the request and completed within the subsequent six months.

Return of Unused Funds:

Funding will become inactive at the conclusion of the 12-month term, or at the conclusion of the approved six-month extension. Unused funds will be returned to the Institute to fund future seed grant submissions.

Exclusion criteria:

- 1) Researchers who are currently funded on an active seed-grant with the RHBSSI
- 2) Research that is duplicative of currently funded work
- 3) Researchers who have received past funding, and are currently delinquent in their reporting outcomes of that work

Dissemination and Participation Requirements:

Awarded projects and PIs will be expected to abide by the following guidelines:

- 1) Provide a short, public narrative summarizing their work for distribution and advertising.
- 2) Manage and expend funds in accordance with the grant aims and budget justification.
- 3) Attend and present at the Institute's annual RECESS (Research and Creative Endeavors in the Sports Sciences) Symposium, typically held each fall semester, while the grant is active.
- 4) Attend RHBSSI bi-annual faculty meetings.
- 5) Provide an annual report of work progress to continue funding.
- 6) Be or apply to become a RHBSSI Faculty Fellow during the next available cycle of applications.
- 7) Cite the RHBSSI as a funding source in their publications and presentations.

Questions and requests should be directed to John DesJardins, RHBSSI Interim Director, at jdesjar@clemsun.edu. Reports should be submitted to Kayla Rogers, RHBSSI Assistant Director, krroge2@clemsun.edu.