

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: 2015 CWPA RESEARCH GRANTS

Submission deadline: Friday, May 29, 2015.

Contents

Funding Opportunities and General Information	1
Organization of the Proposal	2
Criteria for Selection	3
Restrictions and Preferences	4
Expectations of Award Recipients	4
Guidance for Developing Strong Proposals	5
Submitting the Proposal	5
Works Cited.....	5

Funding Opportunities and General Information

The Research Grants Committee (RGC) of the Council of Writing Program Administrators (CWPA) invites proposals for research projects that investigate issues and practices in writing program administration.

“General” and “Targeted” Funding Opportunities

We seek proposals in two funding-opportunity categories: “General Research” and “Targeted Research.”

General research: The General Funding category funds several smaller-award projects that investigate a wide variety of issues related to the work of writing program direction in its various forms.

Targeted research: The Targeted Funding category funds fewer but larger-award projects that address much needed research in our field. As CWPA past president Chris Anson explains, “as a field of inquiry, composition studies has...[not strived] to communicate important ideas, perspectives, and findings to broader audiences” (28).

For 2015 Targeted Funding, we invite proposals for projects that conduct what Richard Haswell has called “RAD inquiry”: research that is “replicable, aggregable, and data supported.” RAD scholarship, as defined by Haswell “is a best effort inquiry into the actualities of a situation, inquiry that is explicitly enough systematicized in sampling, execution, and analysis to be replicated; exactly enough circumscribed to be extended; and factually enough supported to be verified” (201).

Specifically, for Targeted Funding we seek research RAD-inquiry proposals that conduct

- multiple-site/institution research, and/or
- investigations into the connections between secondary and post-secondary writing instruction, student success, and/or policy.

In creating the Targeted category, the CWPA Executive Board’s intention is to support research that is meaningful and persuasive to those outside our field (teachers and researchers in other disciplines, local-campus decision makers, and other stakeholders). What is meaningful and persuasive for them is usually data-supported research about how to best improve writers and writing programs.

Table 1: Summary of General and Targeted Funding Opportunities

	General Research	Targeted Research
Research emphasis/ funding source	Research that addresses important issues for WPAs and other writing-instruction professionals.	Research that is “replicable, aggregable, and data supported,” especially those that <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • obtain and analyze data from multiple sites or institutions, and/or • examine the connections between secondary and postsecondary writing instruction, student success, and/or policy.
Funds available, number of awards, maximum award	\$5000 awarded to four to eight recipients; average award about \$1000; maximum award \$1500.	\$4000 awarded to one or two recipients; average award between \$2000 and \$4000; maximum award \$4000.
Eligibility	Applicants must be current CWPA members. Proposals from CWPA Executive Board or Research Grants Committee members who have served during the current year or previous three years will not be considered.	
Special considerations	We encourage proposals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • from individuals or groups working at two-year colleges and from colleges that service historically underrepresented groups; • with budgets that include matching funds from their institution or other funding agencies. 	
Deadline	Proposals are due Friday, May 29, 2015 at 11:59pm.	

Organization of the Proposal

Please organize your proposal into the following sections:

1. **Cover page** separate from actual proposal:
 - a. Names and institutional affiliations of all investigators. (Do not identify yourself or your institution in any other part of the proposal);
 - b. Project title;
 - c. Contact information: mailing address, email address, and phone number for main contact person;
 - d. Funding Preference: state whether you want your proposal to be considered for “General Research” or “Targeted Research” funding. (Note: If you choose “Targeted Research,” and your proposal is not funded in that category, it will be considered for funding from the “General Grants” funds.)
2. **Project overview (two pages maximum for general research, and three pages maximum for targeted research)**, single-spaced, in which you do the following:
 - a. Explain the problem or question your research project will investigate or attempt to solve, and make clear, if necessary, why this is a significant problem/question for the field.

- b. Clearly outline the methodology you plan to use to approach the problem. Make sure we understand how your methods will yield findings/data that will address the problem you have identified (this is especially important for Targeted Research proposals).
 - c. Provide a timetable detailing how the project will proceed.
 - d. Connect the project to previously published research and scholarship.
 - e. Describe your (and/or your team's) expertise and experience in this area.
 - f. Describe how the results will be shared professionally (see "Expectations of Reward Recipients" page 4).
3. **Realistic, detailed budget and timeline (two pages maximum).** For grants over \$1000, in-kind budget items or alternative budget sources must be included in the budget. State also whether you will accept partial funding. Provide a reasonable and realistic timeline for your project.

Criteria for Selection

Successful proposals pursue research that furthers the CWPA's mission as stated in its constitution:¹

The National Council of Writing Program Administrators (CWPA) represents teachers and researchers whose teaching and scholarship focus on intellectual and pedagogical aspects of writing programs and their administration. Its goal is to provide resources, support, and services on matters attendant to the administration of writing programs. Writing programs, for CWPA's purposes, specifically include all writing-across-the-disciplines programs, writing centers, and writing courses with multiple sections.

The RGC will use the following criteria to conduct a blind review of all proposals:

Significance, relevance, generalizability

- ✓ Does the project address an important problem that is relevant to the work of writing program administrators—i.e., that will make an original and significant contribution?
- ✓ If the aims of the project are achieved, how will writing-program-administration knowledge and practice be advanced?
- ✓ Will the project's aims apply to contexts outside of the immediate institutional context of origin? (Note: "proof of concept" and "model program" projects may be considered generalizable.)

Innovation

- ✓ Is the project original and innovative? For example, does the project challenge existing practices or address an innovative hypothesis or critical barrier to progress in the field?
- ✓ Does the project develop or employ novel concepts, approaches, methodologies, tools, or technologies for this area?

Methods and feasibility

- ✓ Are the methods clearly described?
- ✓ Is the methodology adequately developed, well reasoned, and likely to result in useful findings that answer the research question?

Environment(s)

- ✓ Is/are the environment/environments well suited to the aims—i.e., does the proposed project benefit from the unique features of the institution, or populations, or employ useful collaborative arrangements?

¹ <http://wpacouncil.org/files/CWPA%20Constitution%202009%20draft%203-1.pdf>.

- ✓ Not required but helpful: Does the proposal aim to study populations or settings that have been underrepresented in writing-program research?

Cost Effectiveness

- ✓ Does the budget clearly explain all costs and expenditures?
- ✓ Are the budget items reasonable? When appropriate, does the budget (or narrative) explain why certain items are justified?
- ✓ Do the project's outcomes justify the project's expenses—are the CWPA and its members getting a good “bang for the buck?”
- ✓ Not required for grants under \$1000 but helpful for all proposals: Does the budget include in-kind or matching funds from other sources (such as the institution or other funding agencies)?

Sharing of project findings

- ✓ Not required but helpful: Is there a plan for sharing the results broadly, such as the creation of a website or other digital venue?

Restrictions and Preferences

Ordinarily, funding will not be considered for any of the following:

- Release time for the grantee or others
- Outside consultants or evaluators
- The production of non-researched materials
- Dissertation research
- Equipment
- Travel to present research at CWPA or any other conference (funding for travel to conferences for research purposes may be considered)
- Supplements to existing grants, unless it is clear that the CWPA grant provides an opportunity to extend the project in new directions
- Institutional overhead (in rare cases, proposals requesting a maximum of 10% of the award total may be funded)
- Multiple proposals in a given funding year (i.e., do not submit more than one proposal)
- Proposals from CWPA Executive Board or Research Grants Committee members who have served during the current year or previous three years

The RGC will give first consideration for awards to those who have not received an award for three or more years.

Expectations of Award Recipients

Publication: Recipients are expected to publish or present their research in one or more of the following venues:

- *WPA: Writing Program Administration*, the journal of the Council of Writing Program Administrators: grantees are expected to submit articles resulting from the research to *WPA* for first consideration (RGC-funded research receives no special consideration from the journal's editors or reviewers);
- other print or online journals;
- digital venues: research articles can be uploaded to ERIC (free), Google Scholar (free), or other venues;
- CWPA Summer Conference; research can be presented during a session or as a poster.

Final Report: Grantees are expected to submit a final written report of their research outcomes to the Chair of the Research Grants Committee by June 15 of the year after the completion of the grant. Ordinarily, reports will be five to seven pages in length, but up to ten pages is acceptable. These reports should outline specific plans for submitting an article reporting the results to the *WPA: Writing Program Administration* journal and/or other plans for sharing results.

Guidance for Developing Strong Proposals

The RGC is eager to help you develop strong projects and proposals. We also want to help you avoid wasting your time on projects that have little chance of success.

Getting Advice and Guidance about Your Project and Proposal

For advice about specific projects, please contact Barb L'Eplattenier, Past Chair of the Research Grants Committee. Because she will not participate in proposal evaluation/selection, you can discuss specifics with her, and she can provide specific advice. You can reach Professor L'Eplattenier by email at bleplatt@ualr.edu.

Getting Answers to General Questions about Submission, Format, etc.

For general advice and guidance, please email Chuck Paine, Chair of the Research Grants Committee, at cwpa.research.grants@gmail.com.

Submitting the Proposal

Please submit your proposals as a Microsoft Word or RTF documents; please do **not** send as Adobe pdfs. **Email them as attachments** to an email sent to RGC Chair Chuck Paine at cwpa.research.grants@gmail.com. **Please use this email subject line: "CWPA Research Proposal."**

Confirmation

You will receive a confirmation within 72 hours after we've received it. If you do not receive this confirmation, please contact Chuck Paine (cwpa.research.grants@gmail.com).

Deadline

Emails must be received no later than May 29, 2015 at 11:59pm.

Award Announcements

Those who submit proposals will be informed about funding decisions by email approximately three weeks after the due date. Winners will be announced publicly at the 2015 CWPA conference in Boise, Idaho.

Works Cited

Anson, Chris M. "The Intelligent Design of Writing Programs: Reliance on Belief or a Future of Evidence." *WPA: Writing Program Administration* 32.1 (2008): 11–36. Print.

Haswell, Richard. "NCTE/CCCC's Recent War on Scholarship." *Written Communication* 22.2 (2005): 198–223. Print.