



2023-2024

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF OPPORTUNITY

spacegrant.carthage.edu

RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM (RIP)

Summer/Academic Year 2024-2025 Research

Applications Open: November 1, 2023

Application Deadline: February 5, 2024

Award Announcement: March 29, 2024

Award Cycle: July 1, 2024-May 31, 2025

Awards*: Multi-institutional Awards**: up to \$15,000

Major Awards: up to \$10,000

Minor Awards: up to \$5,000

**Based on availability of funds.*

***Projects demonstrating collaboration between two- and four-year campuses or multiple four-year campuses will be eligible for the multi-institutional award.*

Purpose: The Wisconsin Space Grant Consortium (WSGC) Research Infrastructure Program is designed to provide support to faculty and research staff from the [WSGC universities and colleges](#) seeking to initiate a new or continue a current research program, as well as from the [WSGC industrial affiliates](#) to establish a STEM research program. The awards provide faculty and research staff support for a variety of activities related to supporting NASA Mission Directorates.

Projects should meet two or more of the following:

- Emphasize new lines of space-related research.
- Increase research capability.
- Build research infrastructure.
- Establish research collaborations.
- Initiate research opportunities in line with the NASA Mission Directorates (*For more information on NASA Directorates, see spacegrant.carthage.edu/about/mission/directorates*).
- Enhance research collaborations, mentorships, and other opportunities with NASA Centers.
- Establish collaborations among faculty from liberal arts colleges with faculty from research-intensive doctoral universities, Wisconsin aerospace industries, and NASA Centers.
- Implement research activities linking academic and industrial affiliates, including workshops, seminars, internships, data transfer, and technology transfer.

Successful proposals will combine a robust, relevant research project with a plan that fully integrates students into meaningful, high-caliber, significant research experiences from 10 weeks to a full or academic year, culminating in a presentation. Awards will be based on the proposal topic, quality, credentials of the investigator(s), the probability of success in developing STEM-related research infrastructure, and specific plans on how this seed funding will help to build this research program.

To Apply:

- **CREATE a NASA STEM GATEWAY account** stemgateway.nasa.gov/public/s/login/ (applicants will be required to update profile information annually).
- **CREATE a WSGC account** spacegrant.carthage.edu/about/login/ (applicants will be required to update profile information annually).
- **Sign into** your WSGC account and submit an application and supporting documents to **RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM** <https://spacegrant.carthage.edu/forms/account/login/> (applicants may apply to multiple funding programs).

Application Requirements:

- Faculty and research staff at all [WSGC affiliate member universities or colleges](#) are eligible. Industry members can propose programs and work jointly with one of our academic members, providing the research activity occurs at a member campus.
- Students funded through this grant must be U.S. Citizens.
- Affiliate member institutions must have [affiliate award agreement documents on file](#) with the WSGC Program Office.
- Research initiatives must align with at least one of [NASA Mission Directorates](#).
- The Consortium especially encourages applications from women, underrepresented communities and persons with disabilities.
- Minimum 1:1 match

[Current and Past Award Winners](#)

Supporting Material Required with Application: Submit a proposal addressing each of the six elements listed below. Be sure to identify each element within the proposal clearly. Applicants will upload the proposal at the bottom of the application. The proposal should not exceed 15 pages, including figures.

1. **Introduction/Summary:** Summarize the project in one page or less. Important issues to address here and in the body of the proposal are why the topic is of interest to NASA and how this project will build infrastructure or lead to the development of a larger proposal effort to NASA or another government agency. Detail how this project aligns with the goals of one or more [NASA Directorates or Centers](#). **Because the WSGC is required to demonstrate the alignment of each of our projects with NASA Directorate or Center goals, proposals that do not demonstrate such alignment will not receive funding.** Provide references of related work. Be aware that not all of the WSGC review panel members are likely to be experts in this area, so make sure to provide fundamental information on the project topic.
2. **Background:** Summarize current and previous research on the topic. Provide references of related work. Be aware that not all of the WSGC review panel members are likely to be experts in this area, so make sure to provide fundamental information on the project topic. If the applicant has received previous funding from the WSGC Research Infrastructure Program, the proposal must demonstrate that the past research project has met the goals and objectives of the Research Infrastructure Program. The applicant should provide specific information on how the research led to larger proposal submission(s), broader collaborations, etc. As this is a seed grant program, priority for funding will be given to those projects that can demonstrate strongest growth in Wisconsin's aerospace infrastructure. Also, include the previous support from the WSGC Research Infrastructure Program (title, date, amount).
3. **Proposed Activities:** Describe the research objectives, methods and expected outcomes. Indicate types of presentations and/or papers, which will be a by-product of this project. Be sure to provide fundamental information on the research.
5. **Timeline/Schedule:** Please provide dates indicating when the project start and finish date, as well as any important milestones. Applicants will be required to submit an Interim Report and a Final Report. Periods of performance must align with the award cycle provided within the Announcement of Opportunity. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit a proposal that will not require a no cost extension.

6. **Budget/Use of Funds:** Provide a budget summary using the [Grant Budget Proposal and Invoice Reporting Template Form](#). The proposal shall include a budget detail explaining the use of allowable [funds](#) for the proposed project including labor (Name/position, number of hours, hourly rate, and fringe calculation rates), travel (location, transportation costs, hotel costs, meal costs), participant support costs, materials and supplies, and any other costs (with equivalent detail). Indirect charges are limited to matching funds.
- a. Budget proposals shall include a quarterly spend-down plan to demonstrate grant funds will be fully expended within the Summer or Academic Year Award Cycle.
 - b. The Research Infrastructure Program will normally provide funding for labor, including collaborators and students.
 - c. WSGC financially supports travel to and from the Wisconsin Space Conference if expenses are included in the budget proposal. Travel details should include purpose, location and duration. (*NOTE: A conference presentation is required for this award).
 - d. Travel will be considered if it is fundamentally important to the project.
 - e. Foreign travel is generally not allowable.
 - f. A minimum 1:1 cost-share commitment is required.
 - g. WSGC will not fund overhead; however, the organization's 1:1 project match may include overhead cost-share.
 - h. NASA (WSGC is a NASA-funded organization) does not accept the purchase of capital items as reasonable use of funds for this program. Consult the applicant's institutional policies on what constitutes a capital purchase.
 - i. Given budget limitations, we will likely not support any amount for equipment or rental of facilities.
 - j. Laptops require pre-approval and must demonstrate use solely for the funded grant.

7. **CV/Personnel*:** Please include an updated two page CV. **Note: This grant only allows one Principal Investigator to be listed on the application.* Include brief qualifications for any personnel included in projects. WSGC requires a list of all students receiving funds through this grant to be submitted as outlined in the Award Agreement Letter. Students register on the WSGC application website under **PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM STUDENT PARTICIPATION**.

Award Acceptance Requirements: As part of the award acceptance, awardees will present their project at the Annual Wisconsin Space Conference as outlined in the award agreement and submit the following documents on the WSGC application website under Program Applications/Your Applications:

- Award Agreement Letter
- Institution W9
- One-Paragraph Biography
- PI Professional Photo
- Quarterly Invoices/Cost-Share Report with Supporting Documentation
- Office of Education Survey
- Interim Report (if period of performance is greater than 6 months)
- Summary/Final Report (due 30 days after the project end date)
- Present project at the Annual Wisconsin Space Conference
- 2-3 project photos featuring faculty/students/program participants
- Alumni Story

Please direct questions about the Research Infrastructure Program to:

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This funding opportunity is made available for the pursuit of space-related research and/or activities through the National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program: NASA Educational Cooperative Agreement #80NSSC20M0123. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number for this award is 43.008. Award recipients are subject to the terms of this award.

All awards are fully competitive awards of opportunity in which applications are reviewed by the WSGC Technical Advisory Panel and other experts as needed. Awards are made by the Assistant Director based on recommendations from the Associate Director.

Please follow us on     for program updates

