

Teevens Center Research & Innovation Grants

KIRSTEN AND EUGENE F. “BUDDY” TEEVEENS ’79 CENTER FOR PEAK PERFORMANCE

Purpose

Research and innovation are central to the mission of the Kirsten and Eugene F. “Buddy” Teevens Center for Peak Performance. The Teevens Center Research & Innovation Grants support interdisciplinary projects that deepen understanding of human performance, leadership, and well-being, and translate that knowledge into meaningful benefits for Dartmouth students and the broader community.

The program is stewarded by the **Teevens Center Academic Advisory Board** as part of the Center’s broader research and innovation strategy. Through this program, the Center seeks to advance impactful scholarship, strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration, and translate research into tools, programs, and practices that support student thriving.

The Center's grants advance research and innovation in human performance, leadership, and well-being, the Center's primary focus and a distinctive, interdisciplinary field in its own right. This work spans the full range of methods, including qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods approaches. Proposals are valued first and foremost for the insight and impact they generate, not for adherence to any one methodological tradition. Projects that also connect to one or more of Dartmouth's six university research priority areas (listed under Application Components) link this work to the University's five-year research strategy, though that alignment is optional and not part of the eligibility criteria.

These seed grants are designed to:

- Spark new ideas and exploratory research
- Strengthen collaboration across academic, athletic, health, and creative disciplines
- Encourage projects that integrate research, practice, and lived experience
- Support student learning through hands-on research opportunities
- Generate insights, tools, and practices that enhance performance and thriving
- Contribute to Dartmouth’s leadership in human performance research and innovation

Projects may include applied research, pilot interventions, technology or product design, data-driven innovation, creative or artistic inquiry, or program development that expands the boundaries of human performance at Dartmouth.

Guiding Principles

Grant-supported projects should strive to:

- **Explore meaningful questions:** Address challenges or opportunities related to human performance, leadership development, health, well-being, or student thriving.
- **Translate research into practice:** Develop tools, programs, or practices that meaningfully support student well-being, performance, and thriving.
- **Strengthen Dartmouth’s research ecosystem:** Foster interdisciplinary partnerships that connect faculty, clinicians, coaches, students, and external collaborators across academic, clinical, athletic, and student life domains.
- **Highlight Dartmouth’s strengths:** Showcase the creativity, curiosity, and interdisciplinary energy that characterize academic and co-curricular life at Dartmouth.
- **Create lasting impact:** Generate knowledge, resources, partnerships, or systems that extend beyond the grant period.
- **Use resources responsibly:** Demonstrate thoughtful budgeting, feasibility, and potential for future growth or external funding.

Grant Overview

- **Eligibility:** Open to Dartmouth faculty, staff, postdoctoral scholars, and students (undergraduate and graduate) across Arts & Sciences, the Geisel School of Medicine, Thayer School of Engineering, the Tuck School of Business, and the Guarini School of Graduate and Advanced Studies, including clinical faculty at Dartmouth Health. Collaborative and cross-departmental teams are strongly encouraged and prioritized. Projects that provide meaningful research roles for students as co-investigators, collaborators, or assistants are highly encouraged. Applications are considered in three categories: student-only teams, faculty/staff-only teams, and student-faculty/staff collaborations, each with its own award range (see Funding Amount below).
- **Ineligible Projects:** Projects that are primarily administrative, clerical, curricular, commercial, or tied to institutional initiatives are not eligible.
- **Advisory Board Conflicts of Interest:** Academic Advisory Board members may apply but must recuse themselves from review and discussion of any proposal on which they are named.
- **Multiple Proposals:** Individuals may be named on no more than two proposals and may serve as lead applicant on only one.
- **Graduating Students:** Projects led by students who will graduate before the end of the funding period should either propose a compressed timeline that concludes before graduation or name a continuing team member or faculty mentor to steward the award through completion.
- **Funding Amount:** Tiered by team type (see below). For the 2026–27 pilot year, approximately \$50,000 is available across all categories, and we anticipate funding approximately 8 to 12 projects. All tiers share the same \$2,000 minimum request. Award size is matched to project scope and budget justification, and need not reach the tier maximum.
- **Student-only teams:** \$2,000–\$5,000
- **Faculty/staff-only teams:** \$2,000–\$8,000
- **Student-faculty/staff collaborations:** \$2,000–\$10,000 (the program's priority category)

Please note: Category is determined by the level of faculty involvement, not merely its presence. Student-only teams are independent projects with no faculty involvement; this option exists so students are not required to secure faculty sponsorship to apply. A project should be submitted as a student-faculty collaboration when a faculty member's involvement is substantive, such as shaping the research question or design, providing the methodology or tools the study depends on, or offering ongoing mentorship throughout the project, rather than incidental, such as a one-time consultation or basic access to a resource. Applicants unsure which category fits are encouraged to contact the Center for guidance before applying.

Funding Period Key Dates:

- **Call for Proposals Released:** September 2026
- **Applications Due:** Tuesday, November 10, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. ET
- **Notification:** Tuesday, December 8, 2026 (following the Advisory Board review)
- **Funding Begins:** Award period begins December 14, 2026, with funds accessible once accounts are established.
- **Funding Period:** 12 months, December 14, 2026 to December 14, 2027. Extensions require approval.
- **Interim Progress Report:** June 14, 2027 (project midpoint), 500–750 words
- **Project Completion:** December 14, 2027
- **Projects Contingent on IRB Approval:** For projects funded contingent on IRB approval, the 12-month funding period begins on the date of approval.

Application Components

Applicants must submit **one PDF** (single-spaced, standard margins, 11–12 pt font) to Duncan.Simpson@Dartmouth.edu with the subject line “Teevens Research & Innovation Grant Application.” Combine the application components and all appendices below into this single PDF. You will receive email confirmation of receipt within two business days. If you do not, please follow up.

Each proposal must include the following sections:

- **Project Title and Abstract** (150 words)
A clear summary of the project, its aims, and its relevance to human performance, leadership, or well-being.
- **Project Narrative** (max 1,500 words)
Should address:
 - Background and significance
 - Research questions or goals
 - Methodology
 - Innovation and interdisciplinary collaboration
 - Approach and feasibility
 - Anticipated impact and outcomes

Appendices

- **Why This Project** (required of each student named on the proposal, on both student-only teams and student-faculty/staff collaborations; one statement per student, 100–250 words) - Why does this project matter to you, and how do you see it shaping the impact you want to make?
- **Project Timeline**
Key phases and milestones, including deliverables and anticipated completion dates.
- **Budget and Justification**
Detailed explanation of proposed expenses and any matching funds (see budget guidance below).
- **Team Bios** (100–150 words per team member, max 6 team members)
Short bios highlighting expertise and project roles.
- **Institutional Review Board (IRB)**
If human subjects are involved, include IRB approval or pending submission notice. Relevant information can be found here: <https://www.dartmouth.edu/cphs/>. Projects with a pending IRB submission may be funded contingent on approval prior to the start of data collection.
- **University Research Priority Alignment** (optional)
Indicate any of Dartmouth’s six university research priority areas the project advances (select all that apply, or write “not applicable”). This field supports portfolio tracking and University-level reporting; it does not affect eligibility. Recipients will have a further opportunity to note alignment in their final report, regardless of what was indicated here.
 - Rural health and society
 - Economy, democracy, and security
 - Neuroscience and mental health
 - Biomolecular design
 - Cultivating creativity across the arts and humanities
 - Climate, energy, and cold regions
- **Supporting Materials (optional)**
Letters of support, sample materials, or prior related work.

Budget Guidance

The categories below are meant as a general guide, not a fixed list. The Advisory Board reviews budgets case by case, so a well-justified request outside these categories can still be approved.

Typically fundable:

- Research supplies and materials (lab consumables, art/photography supplies, software licenses tied directly to the project)
- Participant compensation
- Travel and lodging directly tied to data collection
- Datasets or survey costs, with justification for why lower-cost alternatives won't work
- Part-time research assistant support, for hiring undergraduate students to assist with the project
- Undergraduate stipends of up to \$1,000 per student per project, capped at \$3,000 per project. A flat offset rather than payment for hours, in recognition that unpaid research time is not equally available to all students.

Typically **not** fundable, though exceptions are possible with strong justification:

- Retroactive funding for work already completed
- General-purpose computer equipment, books
- Tuition, living expenses, or health-related costs
- Payment of any kind to faculty or staff, including listing oneself as a research assistant
- Graduate student wages or stipends

Stipend and payment conditions:

- Students receiving a stipend must be enrolled in a Dartmouth degree program, in good standing with the College, and current on final reports for any previous award from this fund
- An undergraduate may receive a stipend or research assistant wages for a given project, not both
- International students should confirm with OVIS that their immigration status permits receipt of a stipend or wages before applying

Every budget should include a brief justification tying each expense to the project's goals. The Board can award at or below the requested amount to align scope with available funds.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications are reviewed by the Teevens Center Academic Advisory Board, which serves as the Center's primary advisory and evaluation body for research and innovation. The Board assesses proposals for strategic alignment, scholarly merit, interdisciplinary collaboration, and potential for meaningful impact at Dartmouth and beyond.

Applications will be evaluated using the following criteria:

CRITERION	DESCRIPTION
Strategic Fit	The project advances research or innovation in human performance, leadership, health, or student well-being and aligns with the Teevens Center's mission. Where applicable, demonstrated alignment with one or more of Dartmouth's six university research priority areas further strengthens strategic fit; its absence does not count against an otherwise strong proposal.
Innovation	Demonstrates creativity, interdisciplinarity, or novel approaches, methods, technologies, or frameworks.
Feasibility	Presents a clear design and methodology with achievable goals, appropriate scope, and a realistic timeline.
Collaboration & Student Engagement	Includes meaningful collaboration across disciplines or units and provides substantive opportunities for undergraduate or graduate student participation. Faculty-student partnership is strongly encouraged.
Impact	Has potential to enhance student experience, influence campus practice, contribute to scholarship, or support future research or external funding.
Clarity of Presentation	The proposal is well-organized, clearly written, logically structured, and compelling.
Appropriateness of Budget	Proposes a clear, well-justified budget that is reasonable, aligned with project goals, fits the applicable funding tier, and demonstrates responsible use of resources (see below for guidance)

Grant Recipient Obligations

Grant recipients are expected to contribute to the Teevens Center research community and share outcomes that advance understanding of human performance and student thriving.

- Submit a **final progress report** (500-1000 words) and **budget statement** within three months of project completion. Where the project aligns with one or more of Dartmouth's university research priority areas, briefly note its contribution so the Center can track and report alignment across its grant portfolio.
- Acknowledge the Teevens Center in all publications, presentations, or creative outputs.
- Present findings at the **Teevens Research Forum** or the annual **Teevens Conference**.
- Submit a **Teevens Addendum/Extension Form** if requesting changes or an extension, available by request from the center at Duncan.simpson@dartmouth.edu
- Awards are conditional on meeting these obligations. The Center may withhold remaining funds, or request the return of funds already disbursed, if project requirements are not met.

Questions? Contact Dr. Duncan Simpson, Director of the Kirsten and Eugene F. "Buddy" Teevens Center for Peak Performance, at Duncan.simpson@Dartmouth.edu