

2027 McKinstry Fellowship Application Guide

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CURCI
Gonzaga University

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Probe health-related questions relevant to society today and that will impact future generations through a McKinstry Fellowship

Background

The McKinstry Fellows Research Program is made possible through the generous support of Dean and Vicki Allen. **Learn more** about the origins of this program.

The McKinstry Fellows Research Program supports student-faculty (and possibly staff) research teams probing original research questions that are relevant to society today and that will impact future generations, with an emphasis on providing meaningful research experiences for undergraduate students in Health Sciences and STEM disciplines.

Timeline

The application for Summer 2027 will open on January 27th, 2027, and close on February 25th, 2027. Proposals are reviewed by members of CURCI's External Programs subcommittee (faculty and staff). You will be notified of the status of your application in late March or early April.

Proposal Criteria

Requirements

All proposals must

- Include at least one research team member (faculty, staff, or student) from Gonzaga and one from UW SOM
- meet at least one of the following criteria

1. Focus on a significant health-related question.
2. Be co-curricular, intentionally incorporating a non-academic office and/or non-faculty employees at GU and/or UWSOM (e.g., RIDE, MEDEX, CCE, GU-Outdoors, UMEC, LLRC, Clinical Legal Programs).
3. Include at least one Inland Northwest government agency, nonprofit organization, or industry partner as a collaborator.
4. Be interdisciplinary, involving faculty and/or students from different disciplines, particularly those not traditionally connected.

Additional Review Criteria

Proposals that do the following will be considered more competitive:

- include faculty or staff mentors from both Gonzaga and the UW School of Medicine who are substantively involved in mentoring students.
- aim to improve the health and/or well-being of rural residents; and/or
- clearly articulate how the work connects to the mission of Gonzaga University and/or the UW School of Medicine.

Eligibility

Faculty affiliated with Gonzaga and/or UW School of Medicine who:

- will be returning for fall semester, and
- are able to serve as a research mentor in or near Spokane throughout the proposed research period.

If there are any co-mentors (faculty or staff), each co-mentor will need to submit a separate scope-of-work statement. If your project involves any outside agencies, the agency or a representative should provide a letter of support or scope-of-work statement.

Students – undergraduates enrolled in any major at Gonzaga; or graduate students enrolled in a Spokane-based UW graduate program (e.g., WWAMI School of Medicine, RIDE dental education, and Northwest MEDEX physician assistant program). Students must:

- be returning for fall semester.
- be available to work in the Spokane area throughout the proposed research period.
- be available to participate in any necessary safety and research ethics training.
- present their project through poster or oral presentations in Spokane in the fall (or spring if necessary) immediately following the summer research.

Student and Mentor Expectations

- While awards can be used to support medical and/or graduate students, one goal of this program is to provide meaningful original research experiences for undergraduate students. Proposals must address student impact and involvement in the research, and the lead mentor must be committed to working directly with the students(s) throughout the research period.
- Given that the summer research program should provide a meaningful research experience for students, proposals must demonstrate reasonable aspirations for timeline, budget, and goals.
- Projects that involve human subjects must be approved by either the UW or GU Institutional Review Board. The expectation is that the lead mentor will have obtained IRB approval by the articulated start date. If IRB approval is not secured in time, funding will be withheld.
- While projects should have clear results and outcomes by the end of the summer, projects may extend into the next academic year after an initial summer period (6-10 weeks); clearly indicate in your application if you wish to do this. If the proposed summer research period is shorter than 10 weeks, it is expected that the project will extend into the following academic year.

- Teams are expected to present their work at the UW-GU Health Sciences Symposium in the fall. Poster printing will be provided free of charge.
- Lead mentors must submit a summary of results (~2-3 pages) to CURCI on October 14, 2027. For projects that have been extended into the following academic year, a preliminary report is due Oct. 14 with a full summary of results due 5 weeks after the proposed project end date.
- You are encouraged to try to leverage outside additional funding for projects; if you are requesting that your project including the possibility of extending into the academic year, please consider funding sources such as McDonald Work Awards and Work Study funds for paying students to stretch your budget further.
- After the awards are announced, faculty lead mentors can either self-identify research students, or CURCI can help recruit as needed. Students will be asked to submit a separate application for database tracking purposes.

2027 Specifics

- *Typical awards are between $15k and $30k; the maximum award will be $32k.*
- *Undergraduate student compensation should account for at least 30% of the proposed budget.*
- *Proposal due date: February 25th, 2027*

Application Checklist

(detailed descriptions to follow in Application Components)

☐Public-facing abstract
☐Project Description
☐Budget
☐Scope of Work (required for co-mentors)
☐Letter of Support (required if collaborating with a community partner)

Form Submission Naming Request

To ensure consistency, please name all forms with the submitter's last name, McKinstry2027, and document type:

e.g., “Smith_McKinstry2027_proposal_budget”

Application Components

1. <u>Public-facing abstract</u> *(max: 300 words)*

Give a summary of your proposed work and its significance, including any potential impact of this project inside and/or outside the Gonzaga community. The intended audience is someone who is not an expert in your field.

2. <u>Project Description</u> *(PDF file to upload in Forms) (Max: 4 pages, 12-point font, 1.5-spacing)*

Include the following items, clearly delineating these sections.

a. Project title
b. Name of the lead and co-mentors (if any) as well as affiliation(s)
c. Project goal(s)
d. Outcomes: How the project aligns with the McKinstry Fellows Research Program criteria,
e. Methodology: A brief description of your proposed methodology
f. Mentoring plan: discuss the role that students will play in the project. Also discuss the availability of mentors to work with students throughout your proposed research period and to mentor students as they prepare for and deliver their poster in the UW-GU Health Partnership Research Symposium in November.

g. IRB: If your project involves human subjects, do you already have IRB approval for your research? If not, give your anticipated timeline for submitting your IRB approval request.
h. Budget justification (optional – only if more room is needed than the excel sheet provided)
i. Timeline: Proposed project timeline for the summer period, including start/stop dates
j. Modified schedule proposal (optional): If you are requesting that your research period differ from the typical 10-week summer period, discuss your proposed schedule and justification for the modification. This could include continuing the project into the 2026-27 academic year or having a shorter summer research period (plus continuing the project into the academic year). *Note that faculty cannot receive stipends for non-summer work.*

3. <u>Budget</u> *(use the provided Excel file to create a PDF file to upload in Forms)*

The budget should delineate the amount of support being requested for yourself as lead mentor and any co-mentors, the number of students (undergraduate, graduate, and medical) that you would like to include on your research team, and your requested supply budget; see the instructions in the document. Be sure to include additional budget justification and availability of other funds in the appropriate areas on the form. Once you have completed this sheet, save it as a PDF to upload.

4. **<u>Scope of Work Statement(s)</u>** *(required if you have any faculty or staff co-mentors)*

If you have any co-mentors, each should write a Scope of Work statement for you to submit as part of your Forms application, saving their file as a PDF. In this document, they should clearly clarify their role on the project, explaining how they expect to contribute and what tasks they will be responsible for.

5. **<u>Letter(s) of Support</u>** *(required if you're collaborating with a community partner)*

Attach Letters of Support from others affiliated with your project, each saved as a PDF file. For example, you may want to include letters from any non-faculty employees, or representatives of non-academic offices, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, or industry partners, as appropriate for your proposal.