

SBS Grant Development Professorship

V2.0, Last edited by Beth Stahmer, 7/14/25

Overview

This opportunity supports faculty leadership of large, external grant proposals that advance team-based, institutionally significant initiatives relevant to the [SBS strategic plan](#). Support is in the form of a course release for the PI to enable additional time for proposal development.

Applicants should target a minimum of \$1M in external funds. Well-justified exceptions for a lower amount will be considered in cases of extraordinary institutional significance and potential impact.

The submitted proposal, if awarded, must have impact beyond an individual PI's research program. Forms of impact may include:

- Research innovation through integrative, interdisciplinary team science or scholarship.
- Infrastructure development: creation of new or upgraded facilities (labs, scientific instruments, digital resources) that will benefit multiple users.
- Financial ROI: potential to scale to even larger longer-term funding (\$5M+)
- Student success: Creation or improvement of curriculum or related high-impact practices at programmatic scale.
- External partnerships: community-engaged or use-inspired initiatives with partners from government, industry, or civil society.

Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to consult with Jane Zavisca, SBS Associate Dean for Research, and Beth Stahmer, SBSRI Director, about the potential fit of the target external proposal with the goals of this opportunity prior to submission.

Deadline

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, through the [SBS microsite on Arizona Cultivate](#)

A limited number of professorships will be awarded each fiscal year; check Arizona Cultivate to confirm the competition remains open.

Eligibility

Applicant: Eligible applicants include tenure track (eligible), continuing status (eligible), and career-track faculty who have 1.0 FTE UA appointments, of which at least .50 FTE must be in SBS, and whose regular teaching load includes at least 2 3-credit courses per academic year in SBS. (Note: faculty may not use this award to release from their last course in a given academic year – faculty must teach at least one course unless on sabbatical or other leave.) Awardees are not eligible again for two years.

Team: The proposed team for targeted external proposals must be comprised of an SBS faculty PI (the applicant for the course release), and at least two other SBS faculty or staff with key roles on the proposed project. Additional team members from within or beyond SBS are encouraged. Only one faculty PI per team may apply for and receive this award.

Timeline: The target external submission date must be within 24 months of the professorship application submission date. The Professorship proposal development workplan must specify the intended time period of teaching release (typically a semester, though a 7.5 week period will also be considered for faculty teaching half-semester courses). The teaching release must be timed so as to enable at least 10% of additional annual effort (equivalent to a 3-credit course) to be dedicated to proposal development *prior* to the deadline for the target external submission.

Limited submission policy: If the target proposal is a limited submission, award of the course release will be conditional on being selected by ORP as one of UA's designated applicants (see [RII Limited Submission website](#)).

Head approval: The Unit Head must approve the proposed timing for a course release. Depending on instructional need, the college may fund replacement instruction (arrangements to be determined on a case-by-case basis between the Dean and Unit Head/Director).

Proposal Elements (in Competition Space)

- Applicant information
- Proposal information
 - Proposal title (text field)
 - Targeted funding (text box with 2500-character limit)
 - i. Grant type(s)
 - ii. Agency name(s)
 - iii. Deadline or target date(s)
 - iv. Grant size(s) (target total budget)
 - v. URL(s)
 - Connection to or support of SBS's Strategic Plan (text box with 2000-character limit, brief description, 250 words or less)
 - Identification of relevant research compliance areas (e.g., human or animal subjects, etc.) (text box with 2000-character limit)
- Proposal narrative (PDF upload with 3-page limit), which should contain the following required components:
 - Description of proposed project/submission including the significance of the proposed work in terms comprehensible to scholars from any field.
 - Timeline/workplan: Describe the specific activities to be carried out and milestones to be met during the term of the course release.
 - Description of how the Professorship will support your ability to provide leadership to the project team and improve the competitiveness of the final submission.
 - Statement on expected impact at the unit-, college-, and/or institutional-level.
- References cited (optional, PDF upload, no page limit, use preferred citation style for your discipline)
- PI's Curriculum Vitae (CV) (PDF upload, no page limit, formatting requirements do not apply)
- List of confirmed team members:
 - UA: including name, title, unit and college
 - External (if applicable): name, title organization
- Other support/other sources of confirmed or pending funding (PDF upload, no page limit)
- Signed Head/Director approval form. Once the unit head/director reviews and approves the form, the applicant must upload the form to Arizona Cultivate before the application can be submitted.

Selection Criteria

- Relevance to SBS strategic plan.
- Institutional significance – how does it advance a strategic priority in a novel way that goes beyond the applicant’s regular research, teaching, or service?
- Work plan: how will the time be used to develop and strengthen the proposal?

Selection process

- 2 levels of review – SBSRI board and SBS Deans review.
- Timeline for application review and notification of funding decision: 30 business days.

Expectations of awardees

- Consult with SBSRI (Jane/Beth) and/or Research Development Services (ORP) on proposal development.
- Submit proposal within 12 months of the end of the term of course release.
- Submit final report within 30 days of external proposal submission.

Questions: Contact sbsri@arizona.edu.