

The University of Cincinnati Office of Research **AI Enrichment Pivot Grants Program**

The Office of Research is pleased to share the FOA for the new AI Enrichment Pivot Grants Program, formerly the Faculty Research Pivot Grants Program. The AI Enrichment Pivot Grants are for faculty who wish to support their graduate and/or professional students who are seeking to integrate AI into their work to pursue transformative new approaches to their research, scholarship and creative activities. This program is intended for faculty and students who are not AI researchers but rather seek to explore the benefits of AI in advancing their own activities. All areas of research, scholarship and creative activities across UC are eligible.

This program will follow a two-stage application/evaluation process. The first stage involves submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI). Up to 10 faculty finalists will then be invited to submit a full proposal and agree to a 15-minute presentation/Q&A to discuss their proposed activities.

Grants

Each grant will be up to \$10,000. Funds must be used for student stipend support plus any necessary costs for AI implementation, as necessary to accomplish the goals of the project. Budgets will only be required from awardees and will be created in collaboration with the Office of Research. Up to five grants will be supported by this new program.

Key Dates

FOA released: January 10, 2025

LOI Deadline: February 13, 2025 at 5:00 pm ET

Finalists Notified: Week of March 3, 2025 (anticipated)

Final Proposal Deadline: April 1, 2025 (for finalists only)

Finalist Presentations: Week of May 5, 2025 (anticipated)

Grantee Announced: Week of June 2, 2025 (anticipated)

Program Information

The AI Enrichment Pivot Program has been established as part of UC's [Research2030](#) strategic plan for research. It is clear that AI can be a transformative tool which can establish new and unique lines of research, scholarship, or creative activities. The Office of Research seeks to support faculty who wish to explore the power and benefits of AI in their research, especially in areas where the application of AI is underexplored.

The goals of this program are to 1) Support new applications of AI in research, scholarship, and creative activities; 2) Drive excellence in all areas of research, scholarship and creative endeavors; and 3) Advance high-potential, high-impact activities that are inclusive, impactful, and innovative to the next level.

The expected outcomes for this program are to: 1) Support talented graduate/professional students that are exploring AI in partnership with their faculty mentor; 2) Advance high-potential research and creative activities in emergent areas; and 3) Increase faculty competitiveness and capacity for extramural awards and funding.

Grantees will be selected based on the quality and impact of utilizing AI to advance existing research, scholarship, and creative activities, along with a clear potential to make further, sustainable contributions to knowledge creation and improved societal outcomes. It is understood that these funds are to support exploratory efforts, with high- risk/high-reward applications being favored.

Eligibility

- Eligible applicants include UC faculty members with at least an 80% FTE appointment, with UC being the primary appointment.
- Only one application per eligible faculty member is allowed. There are no limits to the numbers of applicants per unit or college. Collaborators may be part of the research/creative activities as deemed necessary by the primary applicant.
- Otherwise eligible faculty who received past URC or Office of Research funding may apply. Such previously funded applicants must have met all requirements of former awards within budget and timeframe AND the proposed area of research, scholarship or creative activities may not duplicate that previously supported by a former award. Note: such previous awardees will be required to provide data/evidence that the previously funded project was successful and impactful if invited to the finalist stage for this program.
- Otherwise eligible faculty with external funding may apply but the proposed activities must not duplicate those already funded, and applicants should clearly delineate the relationship between on-going, funded work and that being proposed here.

Letter of Intent Submission Requirements

Applications will be submitted online via Wizehive, a user-friendly, internal funding software. When the application is available on the Wizehive platform, the live link to apply will be posted at <https://research.uc.edu/funding/overview>.

Letter of Intent Materials

All applicants will be required to provide their name, UC email, UC ID-number, college, department/unit, and proposal title within the Wizehive application portal prior to uploading the required pdf files.

The LOI should contain the following information in the order listed below and will be submitted as a single PDF file. Figures may be included but cannot be used to exceed the page limit. No hyperlinks or redirects to external information may be included. Your submission must adhere to general requirements of 12 point font, 1 inch margins, and single column layout.

1. Research Interest and Impact. (2 pages maximum)
 - a. PROPOSAL TITLE AND APPLICANT NAME
 - b. PROBLEM STATEMENT: What problem/research area are you passionate about and why is this particular problem/research area worth addressing?
 - c. AI INTEGRATION PIVOT/APPROACH: Describe – at a high level – the approach you will take to investigate/integrate AI to address the stated problem.
 - d. GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ROLE: Describe your student’s capabilities to undertake this work and the role you will have in mentoring/supporting their efforts on this project.
 - e. OUTCOMES/IMPACT: Describe why the integration of AI into the research will be important as evidenced by the scalable potential outcomes and impacts your work will have on the field and more broadly.
2. Bibliography/References Cited. Full reference details for all citations. (1 page maximum)
3. Biographical Sketch/CV using the [TEMPLATE](#) (3 page maximum)

LOI Review Criteria

- Project Merit
 - Clarity, significance and relevance of problem being addressed
 - Innovation/creativity/feasibility of the proposed approach
 - Project outcomes including potential impacts of AI to the problem and broader field of study, the impacts for the student, and any additional broader societal impacts.
- Suitability of the applicant and student to undertake and complete the proposed project.
- Compliance with Application Guidelines in the RFP and the Submission Portal.

Finalist Selection & Review Process

Each AI Enrichment Pivot Grant LOI will be reviewed by a team assembled by and including the VP for Research. No more than ten (10) finalists will be invited to submit a full proposal.

Neither comments nor feedback on LOIs will be provided to applicants, however comments and feedback on full proposals will be made available to finalists.

Details on the full proposal process and required materials will be distributed to all finalists directly.

Note: AI Enrichment Pivot Program Grantees will be required to serve as reviewers for future AI Enrichment Pivot Program offerings and/or other Office of Research Internal Funding opportunities.

QUESTIONS? Email research@uc.edu