

GRADUATION & BEYOND SEED GRANTS GUIDELINES – FALL 2023

ABOUT

We invite you to submit an application for a Seed Grant. With the support of [the Strada Education Foundation](#), the University of Arizona’s Student Engagement and Career Development department has approximately \$50,000 available to be awarded to UA departments, colleges, and/or collaborative, cross-disciplinary teams to support initiatives that seek to improve equitable post-graduation outcomes for UA undergraduate students on Main, Distance, Sierra Vista, and Online campuses.

We are seeking proposals that:

- › Focus on improving equitable outcomes for specific student populations served within unit(s), especially first-generation students, marginalized communities, and students of color.
- › Use existing post-graduation and/or career-related data to develop potential initiatives. Some existing UA sources can be found on the [UA Assessment & Research](#) website, however, any external research (e.g. from [NACE](#), [Strada](#), or other organization) or unit collected sources are also encouraged.
- › Include a willingness to test and iterate possible ideas that improve outcomes.
- › May serve as a model for others at the UA wishing to undertake action to enhance equitable career outcomes.

With these funds, we hope to support approximately 6 to 10 projects. Funding must be dispersed by end of calendar year, 2024, however, project end dates may vary.

Proposals may include funding for student interventions, staff training, development of materials, events focused on key student populations, data collection support, employer/partner collaborations, among others. We encourage applications that are creative and flexible in serving the diverse post-graduation needs of UA undergraduate students. *If you need help developing your idea, please reach out to mforecki@arizona.edu for consultation.* We are happy to help!

ELIGIBILITY

All full-time University Staff and Faculty are welcome to apply. Applications must be approved by the appropriate leadership of the applicant(s) department.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Requests will be prioritized based on the following criteria:

- 1) Evidence of data-informed solutions or initiatives (25%).
- 2) Detailed explanation for how project goals are expected to improve student outcomes, specifically for marginalized students (25%).
- 3) Plans for assessing short- and long-term outcomes (25%).
- 4) Project’s potential ongoing impact beyond the grant period (25%).

SUBMISSION AND DEADLINE

Applicants should submit all requests via Qualtrics no later than November 3, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. Arizona Time.

Cycle	Open for Submission	Submission Deadline	Response By
Fall 2023	September 20, 2023	November 3, 2023	Mid December 2023



GRADUATION & BEYOND SEED GRANT SUBMISSION FORM

Proposals are submitted by completing the [submission form online](#) via Qualtrics. Below is a preview of the items that will be requested in the online submission form.

Personal Details:

- › Applicant First Name & Last Name
- › Primary Appointment Title
- › College/Unit Name
- › University Email Address
- › Phone Number
- › Are you planning to collaborate with other department(s) or community partner(s) for this project?
 - Yes, and I have reached out to another department or community partner.
 - No
 - I am not sure yet
 - **(if yes):** Share any information you have about the department or team members with whom you are planning to collaborate (names, emails, affiliations of team members)
 - **(if I am not sure yet):** If you have an idea of who you would like to work with, please let us know the name of the department or partner here. If not, feel free to leave the space blank.
- › Is this project approved by your unit's leadership? Yes, No, I don't know

Please upload a file that contains the below elements.

- › **Proposal Title:** State the title of the proposal
- › **Project Description (suggested alignment to criteria #1):** A description of the project, including the relevant data that supports the planned initiative. (Approximately 150 words)
- › **Expected Impacts (suggested alignment to criteria #2):** A description of the expected impact(s) to students; In addition to impacts to students, may also include impacts to staff/faculty, employers, or others served/educated as part of the project (Approximately 200 words)
- › **Measuring Impact (suggested alignment to criteria #3):** A plan for how you intend to measure the impact of your initiatives. Please include how you define success and how you might celebrate progress and share results. If applicable, also share how the project could be adapted to other units. (Approximately 200 words)
- › **Sustainability (suggested alignment to criteria #4):** A plan for how you might sustain or continue the project once the funds have been expended. Please include how your project might create assets, resources, or build capacity in people or processes that could continue to influence students beyond the funding period. (Approximately 150 words)
- › **Timeline of Expected Project Milestones:** An outline of when you expect to reach certain milestones that will indicate success. We acknowledge that all planned outcomes may not be completed within the timeframe of the grant.

Please upload a file that contains the budget justification.

- › **Budget Justification:** A brief budget and budget justification. There will be a link to upload a file which should include your budget line items.

REPORTING

To facilitate transparent reporting to our grantor, the Strada Education Network, each funded project must deliver a short progress report **May 31st, 2024** with final report by **December 20th, 2024**. Additional details will follow.

Criteria	Exceeds Expectations	Fully Meets Expectations	Does Not Fully Meet Expectations	Does Not Meet Expectations at All
Evidence of data-informed solutions or initiatives (25%).	Proposal includes two or more post-graduation or career-related data sources and connection of source(s) insights to proposed solutions or initiatives is clearly specified and well-argued.	Proposal includes one or more post-graduation or career-related data source and connection of source insights to proposed solutions or initiatives is well-specified.	Proposal includes one post-graduation or career-related data source to support proposed solutions or initiatives and attempts to connect source insights, however, the connection is unclear or not well-specified to the reviewer.	Proposal does not include any post-graduation or career-related data references.
Detailed explanation for how project goals are expected to improve student outcomes, specifically for marginalized students (25%).	Proposal includes all three criteria. The intended student outcomes are clearly aligned to the project's goals. The intended student outcomes include specifics regarding what students will be able to do as a result of the project. The project's goals are well-developed and realistic for the project. The proposal is thoughtful, specific, and original on how the proposed solution will positively impact students from at least one marginalized identity, including but not limited to, race/ethnicity, generation status, Pell-eligible status, or gender.	Proposal includes all three criteria. The intended student outcomes are clearly aligned to the project's goals. The intended student outcomes include specifics regarding what students will be able to do as a result of the project. The project's goals are well developed. The proposal is thoughtful and specific on how the proposed solution will positively impact students from at least one marginalized identity, including but not limited to, race/ethnicity, generation status, Pell-eligible status, or gender.	Proposal includes at least mention of all three criteria. The proposal lacks clarity for how the intended outcomes connect to the project's goals. The submission includes reference of how the project will support marginalized students but does not include specifics beyond a cursory mention.	The proposal is missing at least one of the key components of the criteria: (1) project goals, (2) intended student outcomes, (3) intended student outcomes among marginalized students.
Plans for assessing short- and long-term outcomes (25%).	Proposal includes both short- and long-term outcomes as well as a clear and specific description that defines success. Submission includes a timeline for when the outcomes are expected to be met, and specifics on how outcomes will be measured, celebrated, and shared with relevant stakeholders.	Proposal includes both short- and long-term outcomes. Submission includes a timeline for when the outcomes are expected to be met and a general description for how outcomes will be measured and shared with relevant stakeholders.	Proposal includes both short- and long-term outcomes. Submission includes only one of the below: (1) a timeline for when outcomes are expected to be met or (2) the methods for how outcomes will be measured.	Proposal includes either short- or long-term outcomes, but not both.
Project's potential ongoing impact beyond the grant period (25%).	Proposal includes a clear and specific description of how the project will be funded and continued after the project's end date, including details that affirm for the reviewer that the plan is reasonable. The proposal includes two or more assets, resources or capacity building strategies.	Proposal includes a general description of how the project will be funded and continued after the project's end date as well as one asset, resource or capacity building strategy.	Proposal includes a description for how the project will be funded and continued after the project's end date, however, the sustainability plan lacks detail or seems unreasonable given funding request and staff capacity. The proposal does not include any assets, resources, or capacity building strategies.	Proposal does not include a description for how the project will be sustained once the funding and project timelines end or any assets, resources, or capacity building strategies.