

**Clayton Awards for Excellence in Research
Call for Proposals and Proposal Guidelines**

Department of Psychology
University of Utah
March 4, 2025

Deadline: Monday, April 1, 2025, noon.

Dear Psychology Faculty and Students:

Thanks to a generous gift from the Joseph A. and Ruth S. Clayton trust, the department now has funds available annually to "recruit and support outstanding graduate students." The two award announcements contained in this document, the Clayton Award for Excellence in Research on Underrepresented Populations and the Clayton Award for Excellence in Graduate Research, represent efforts to support outstanding graduate student research and to further the professional development and degree progress of graduate students. Award amounts are approximate and depend on the funds available at the end of the fiscal year. Priority will be given to students who have not previously received awards from this fund.

Clayton Award for Excellence in Research on Underrepresented Populations

Up to \$4,000 to support high-quality research on underrepresented populations in our community or in psychological research in general. These funds could be awarded to support a single project, or several smaller awards could be made. Applicants must be graduate students in good standing in the Department of Psychology, and students in any year of the program are eligible. Priority will be given to research projects conducted with members of underrepresented groups, especially among participants other than college students. Special priority will be given to projects that develop or maintain the department's collaborative relationships within the broader Salt Lake City community. The selection committee will also consider projects that, although they may be conducted with traditional research samples, have the potential to inform our understanding of some aspect of human diversity. Successful proposals will make clear the contributions of the proposed work to the understanding of diversity in its many forms.

Clayton Award for Excellence in Graduate Research

Up to \$4,000 to support high-quality research conducted by an advanced graduate student. To be eligible, students must be in years 2, 3, 4, or 5 of our graduate program and have not yet completed their dissertation proposal meeting at the time of application. These funds may be awarded to a single project or to more than one project. These funds are not intended to support dissertation research, as there are other funds available on campus and nationally for this purpose. However, these funds may be used to support programmatic research on which a dissertation will ultimately be based or to support pilot research that may test the viability of dissertation ideas. **Although these funds were not originally intended for dissertation research, we will accept proposals that include dissertation research, but these must be accompanied by an explanation as to why the Clayton funding mechanisms is being pursued and whether other sources of funding have been explored. Dissertation research proposals may also receive lower priority than other projects.** It is also possible that the project may be completely unrelated to a student's dissertation topic. Applicants must be graduate students in good standing in the Department of Psychology.

Deadline:

April 1, 2025, noon, is the deadline for submitting all completed applications to Nancy Seegmiller for consideration by the Graduate Committee. In a cover letter, applicants should provide contact information. The cover letter does not count toward the length limit for the proposals.

Expected Notification Date:

We expect to notify applicants of the status of their applications on or around April 14th.
[announcement continues on p. 2]

Guidelines for Proposals:

Both awards use the same proposal guidelines. All proposals are limited to 3 pages, single spaced, with at least 12-point type and normal margins (not including references), plus a cover letter, a cv, and one letter of recommendation from a faculty member. Proposals in excess of this length will not be considered.

The proposal should contain the following elements:

1. A research proposal describing the rationale for the research, the contribution it seeks to make, the study design, a time line for completion and other information necessary to evaluating both the scholarly merit and the feasibility of the proposed research,
2. A budget (see details below),
3. A statement of how the proposed research fits the selection criteria of the award and how the student meets the eligibility criteria, as applicable,
4. A curriculum vitae of the applicant (does not count toward 3-page limit), and
5. A letter of recommendation from a faculty member (does not count toward 3-page limit)

Start Dates:

The earliest the proposals could start is Summer session 2025. Please see Dennis Laros for any other questions concerning funding cycles, timing, and disbursement of funds for these awards.

Budget:

Please clearly describe and justify all requested funding. Ask only for what you actually need (that is, do not pad your budget). Allowable expenses include all direct expenses associated with the conduct of the research and the preparation and dissemination of the results. These include, but are not limited to, release time from teaching, summer support, payments to participants, equipment, supplies, software, and undergraduate research assistants (though you should seek other sources of funding for undergraduates, such as the UROP program or work-study students).

Except in unusual circumstances, graduate travel to conferences will not be funded as funds from the Graduate School are available for this purpose.

Selection Criteria:

Proposals will be evaluated by the Graduate Committee on an annual basis. For both programs, the primary criteria will be merit and, in the case of the award for research on underrepresented populations, the match of the proposed research to the award criteria as judged on the basis of the research proposal, applicant CV, and letter of recommendation. The department reserves the right not to make an award in the event that no proposals of sufficient merit are submitted in a particular funding cycle.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about these two awards or if you are not sure which award is the better match to your proposed project.

Best,
Cindy Berg
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