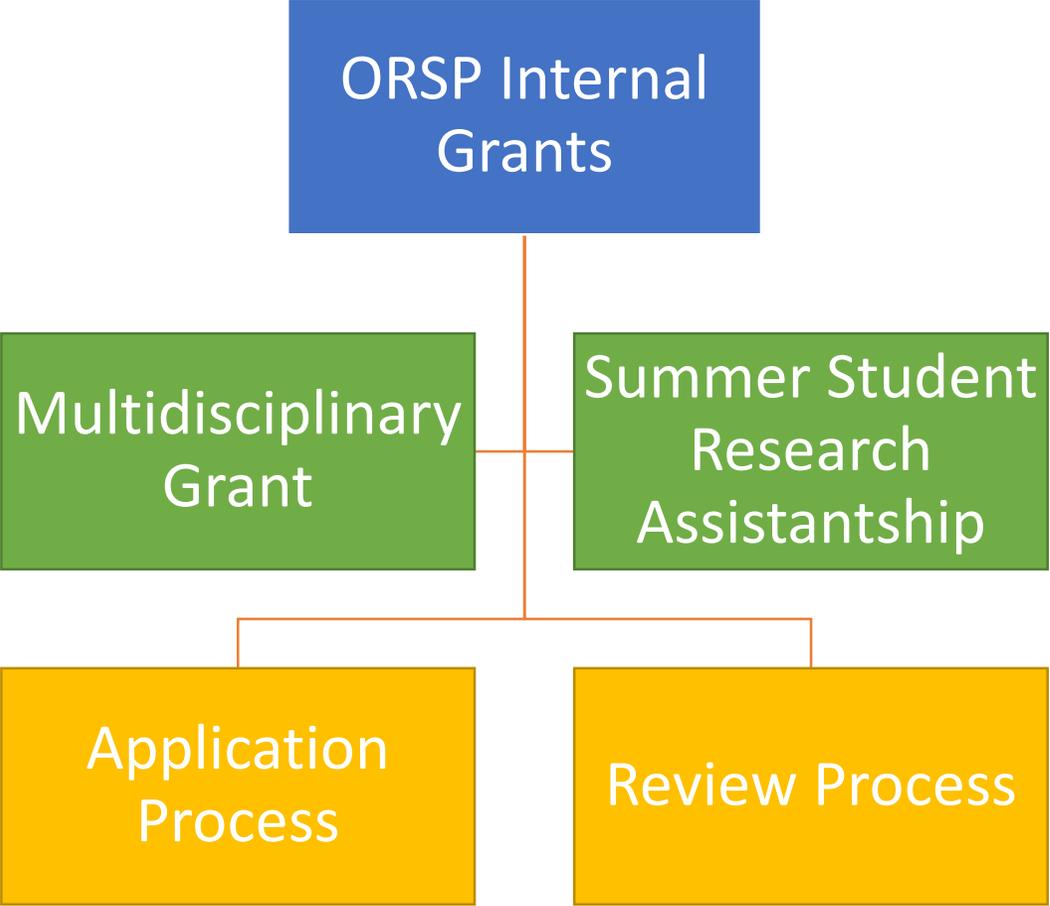# ORSP Internal Grant Programs

Chi-Ah Chun, CLA Director of Research

October 11, 2019

Multidisciplinary Research Grant

Challenges of Multidisciplinary Research
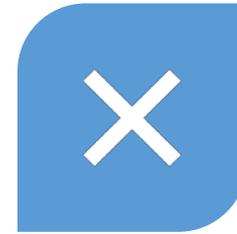
LANGUAGE   **EPISTEMOLOGY**   **APPROACHES**   **CRITERIA FOR ACCEPTABILITY**   **PUBLICATION OUTLETS**

*Proctor & Vu (2018)*

Benefits of Conducting Multidisciplinary Research

Essential in addressing large-scale real-world problems

Innovative solutions & new discoveries, inventions, and interventions

Proctor & Vu (2018)

Ingredients of Successful Multidisciplinary Research Teams

- **A genuine respect** for each other's disciplinary approaches and belief in the value of the partnership
- **A good leadership** with a clear bird's eye view and facilitates informal interactions among team members
- **Adequate resources** for research and administrative support for "forming, coordinating, and motivating multidisciplinary teams"

Proctor & Vu (2018)
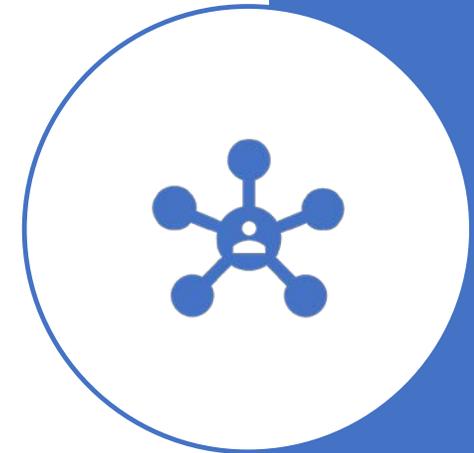
Review Process for Multidisciplinary Research Grants
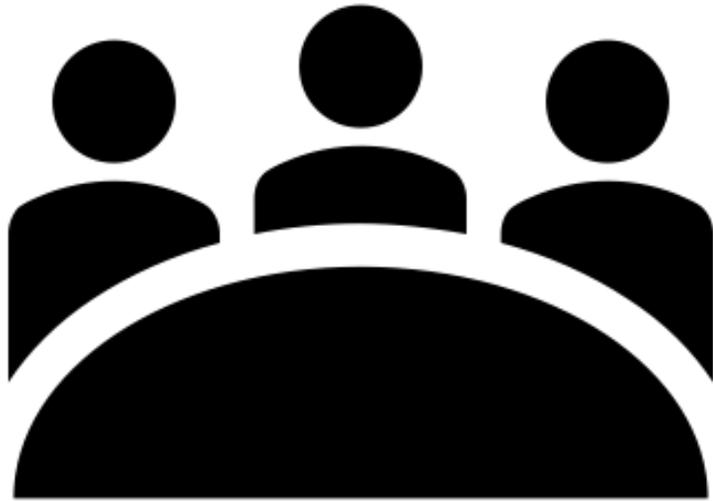
University Research Advisory Council
(URAC)

- Reviewed by 3 URAC members
- Colleges of all PIs represented if possible
- Applications are reviewed with a scoring rubric.
- Rankings are determined and funding decisions made based on the ratings of the 3 reviewers

Review Criteria and Scoring Rubric

Criteria	Points Possible
Intrinsic merit	20 points
Potential and level of external funding	20 points
Methodology/approach	15 points
Innovation/contribution to field	15 points
Research team/track record	10 points
Student participation	10 points
Budget planning	10 points

Introduction/Background & Objectives/Goals/Specific Aims

#1

Intrinsic Merit

- Evaluate the importance and significance of the proposed work for the discipline(s)

- The multidisciplinary collaboration is clearly articulated and should be integral and well justified for the proposed work.

- Should be understandable by non-expert reviewers

#2
Potential and Level of External Funding

Plan(s) to Apply for External Funding

- Potential funding source(s): Degree of fit with funding priorities, prior success of obtaining funding from the source, and prior contact with program officer
- Anticipated amount for each potential external grant proposal
- F&A rate allowed (minimum 26%)
- The more specific the information provided in the proposal, the better.

#3

Methodology/ Approach to Achieve Goals

Methods/Analysis

& Timeline

- Write for expert and non-expert reviewers.
- Strike a balance between providing a clear overview and specific details
- A month-to-month timeline of the project during the academic year of the funding
- Specific months (e.g., February – March 2021) instead of relative points on the timeline (e.g., Weeks 12-17).
- Consider using graphic timeline

#4
Innovation/ Contribution to Field

Needs/Innovation/Significance

- How well does the proposed work address and fill the needs of the relevant discipline(s)?

- How innovative is the proposed work?

- What is the significance of the proposed work for the relevant discipline(s)?

- Highlight the value of the multidisciplinary approach

- Convince expert and non-expert reviewers

#5 Research Qualification of PI(s)/ Track Record

(2-page) CVs of each PI

- Focus on relevant or recent awards, presentation, publications and funding

- Outcome of past ORSP Internal Research Grant funding from all PIs – external funding

- Highlight student co-authors and research assistantships

#6 Student Participation

**Methods/Analysis;
Timeline;
& Budget & Budget Justification**

- Inclusion of paid student assistants, especially undergraduates, is highly valued.
- Time commitment of the student assistants
- Descriptions of their roles and duties in the project
- Training offered to help them acquire needed skills and knowledge for their positions
- Opportunities for research presentation and/or publication

#7 Budget Planning

Budget & Budget Planning & Methodology/Approach

- Faculty assigned time
  - State-side replacement rate of $4650 per 3 units
  - No more than 3 units per semester
  - Cannot be requested if already receiving RSCA Reassigned Time for the same project
  - No stipend, summer salary or add. employment
- Student wages: Match the level of activities described in "Methodology/Approach"
- Travel: Only for project related activities; no conference travels
- Equipment: No more than 30% of the total budget

Summer Student Research Assistantship Program

A summer "internship" program for students that provides financial support during the summer intersession months to undertake full-time research and scholarly activities

For both *undergraduates and graduates* from all disciplines and academic areas of study.

Must be on faculty mentor's research project - cannot be for student's own thesis work

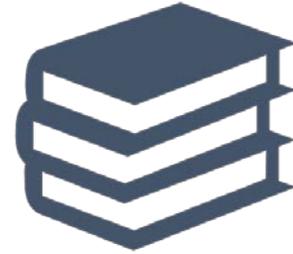# Program Background and Objective

Faculty and Student Eligibility

Faculty Research Mentors

TT Faculty

Lecturer with a Tenured Faculty or Department Chair as Co-Mentor

* Must be available during summer to supervise student

Student Applicants

Full time student who will be enrolled in Fall 2020

Eligible to work in the US

Unit standing

- Undergraduates: 18+ units in their major prior to Spring 2020;
- Graduate students: 1+ year prior to Summer 2020.

Funding Mechanism

Compensated on the basis of time spent on their research, up to full-time research for a period of 8 consecutive weeks

Cannot supplement salary from any CSULB internal awards or from external grants for the same project during the summer

Special consideration will be given to students who are (a) in financial need or (b) who are undertaking research on unfunded projects.

Deliverables

Submit *Work Accomplished Report* at the end of August, 2020

Present their work at the *CSULB Student Research Competition* in February, 2021

Present their work at a research venue, on or off campus

Application Process

- Applications are due in Spring.
- Applications must be submitted by faculty research mentor via Info-Ready Research Competition Space.
- A faculty research mentor can work with only one SRA at a time. But he/she may nominate up to 2 students. If a mentor nominates two students, he/she must rank the students.

Student Résumé or CV

Student Transcripts

Financial Aid information - if relevant

Student Personal Statement

Faculty Mentor Recommendation Letter

Application Materials

Review and Selection: General Process

- Conducted separately by college.
- Undergraduate and graduate applicants are reviewed and selected separately.
- The number of SSRA slots allotted to each college will be determined in proportion of the number of applications received from each college.

Example: College of Liberal Arts

Step 1) The CLA review committee members determine eligibility of applicants.

Step 2) The committee members review applications from eligible applicants using a scoring rubric.

Step 3) Scored applications are ranked by undergraduate and graduate applicants. When rank ordering applications with same or very close scores, consider:
- Demonstrated financial need of student applicant;
- Proposed work on projects without funding;
- Only one SSRA per faculty mentor.

Step 4) CLA Director of Research compiles the scores and rankings from the three committee members, determines the final ranking of the CLA applications, and makes recommendations to URAC for funding.

(Step 1) Eligibility Determination

Step 1: Determine Eligibility

Eligibility		Yes	No
Academic standing			
Undergraduate	At least 18 units completed int heir major by Spring 2019		
Graduate	One year completed in the graduate program by Summer 2019		
Employment eligibility	Have signed employment eligibility statement		
Additional funding	Is not receiving funding from internal awards or external grants in Summer 2019 to conduct the proposed study		
Not a Thesis	Proposed work is NOT for student's own thesis (e.g., undergraduate honors or master's)		

Applications with any No's shoul

(Step 2) Application Evaluation

Step 2: Evaluate the Application

Review Criteria		Rating (1-5)*	Weight
Academic Achievement	How strong is the student applicant's academic achievement thus far? (Transcript and resume)	1-5	20%
Commitment to Research	How commited is the student applicant to learning about research in his/her field? (Personal statement and letter of recommendation)	1-5	20%
Potential for Research Training through the Proposed Work	How rigorous is the proposed summer research work and the training the student applicant will receive? (Personal statement and letter of recommendation)	1-5	20%
Potential for Mentorship	What is the quality of the proposed mentorship plan? How well does the mentor know the student applicant? How well does the mentorship plan address the student applicant's research training needs? How adequate is the plan for communication, meeting, and collaboration?	1-5	20%
Fit with Mentor's Expertise	How well does the proposed research work fit the mentor's research expertise? How well positioned is the mentor to provide good guidance for the proposed work?	1-5	10%
Potential for External Funding	How likely will the completed research work lead to applications for external funding?	1-5	10%

*Rating: 1 (very weak) - 5 (exceptionally strong)

**Weighted and calibrated Score: Applied the criterion weight and calibrated the weighted score to 100

Total Score

Funding Notification and Hiring

ORSP will notify student applicants and faculty mentors in mid-April.

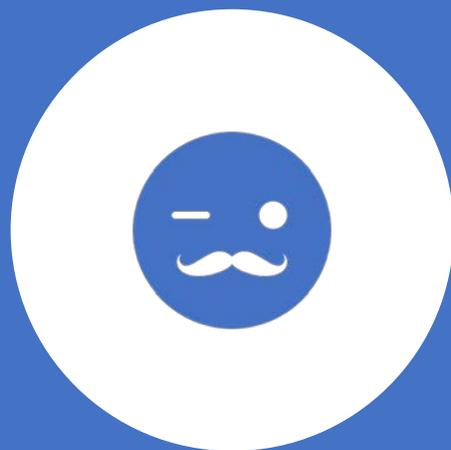Student awardees must notify ORSP by end of April their acceptance of the award

Student hiring paperwork is completed through the Foundation. Employment eligibility will be verified.

Getting Paid during Summer

Biweekly timesheet by their due dates to the Foundation with maximum of 8 weeks of employment.

Signed by the faculty mentor or a designated signatory.

Report actual number of hours put in on the project. No overtime pay permitted.

Any Questions?