

GUIDELINES FOR DISTRICT III RESEARCH AWARDS

Purpose: The purpose of the District III Research and Grant Award program is to encourage and support research by athletic trainers who are members of the National Athletic Trainers' Association in District III. The research experience must be designed to expand the body of knowledge in athletic training and sports medicine through conjectural research.

Eligibility and Guidelines: The following are the eligibility requirements and guiding principles that will be applied in the administration of the grant awarding process.

1. Any NATA athletic trainer who is a member of District III is eligible for an award. Graduate student members of District III, or who are attending graduate school in District III are also eligible for an award. Graduate students, however, must have a sponsor who is an athletic trainer and a member of District III.
2. Research projects must be experimental in nature and designed to expand the existing body of knowledge in athletic training. No awards will be made for research that is intended to result in the development of a product that is essentially commercial.
3. Grant awards are given for both quantitative and qualitative research proposals.
4. All proposals must be submitted to the Research and Grant Committee Chair no later than October 1 of each year. A blind review of all proposals will be conducted by the committee comprised of athletic trainers from District III. Due to the blind review, all identifying information (researchers names, institution names, etc) must be removed from the proposal. Committee members will be exempted from review if a proposal is submitted from their respective institution. The primary goal of this committee is to evaluate each proposal and recommend to the Director of District III those that are indeed acceptable for funding.
5. Grant awards range from \$500.00 to \$2000.00. Authors of submitted proposals will be notified within approximately one month following submission of the proposal indicating if they are a recipient of the grant award. Recipients will be asked to share their results within one year from completion of their study through submission of an abstract to Bonnie Van Lunen to be submitted for publication on the *District III Website*.

Application Process:

The total length of the proposal must not exceed 10 double-spaced typewritten pages (including the pages for the budget and bibliography) with font size equal to or greater than 11. Proposals must be submitted according to the following detailed format. Proposals exceeding 10 pages and/or failing to comply with the application format and guidelines will not be considered.

1. **Research Problem:** Briefly introduce the research problem through a concise review of the current relevant literature. Be sure to present your research problem in relation to the existing literature by stating the current research void and how your findings will meaningfully contribute to the current body of knowledge. If appropriate, state the problem in specific measurable terms and state your hypothesis in operational terms.
2. **Significance of the Proposed Research:** Explain why your project is important and relevant to the profession of athletic training. Additionally, describe the theoretical basis and/or rationale for the project by describing the ways the study will contribute to and expand the existing body of knowledge in athletic training.
3. **Procedure:** Briefly describe the research methods and procedures you will use to address the research problem. Your procedures should address each of the following labeled subsections: overview of the methods, research design type, the independent and dependent variables, sample size, instrumentation (including manufacturers, reported reliability and validity), data management, and proposed means of data reporting.
4. **Budget:** Place the budget on a separate page with the title Proposed Budget. In your budget be sure to address the following categories (a) expendable supplies, (b) equipment to be purchased, (c) salary (including student assistants and primary investigator), (d) subject honorariums, and (e) data management and analysis (if statistician is used). For each category justify how funding is required for conduction and completion of your study.
5. **Time Line:** Please construct a time line indicating when you will begin your research, the important bench marks along the way (collection of data, categorization, analysis) and when you plan to finish the project.
6. **Bibliography:** Place your bibliography on a separate page with the title Bibliography centered at the top of the page, utilizing the *Journal of Athletic Training* Guide to Authors' referencing format. Please list all the literature you have referenced in your proposal. Limit your bibliography to 15 major references.
7. **Consent Form and IRB Approval:** Please attach a copy of the Subject's Consent to Participate form that will be used for the proposed study if available. Additionally, investigators conducting research at academic institutions must attach a copy of the approval letter from the institution's Investigatory Review Board (IRB), Human Subjects Review Board, or appropriate administrative office, if available. If the study has not yet been approved by the institution's respective committee, provide a date for the proposed submission. No funds will be awarded to a project unless approval has been received.

***All proposals should include a cover letter which details the title of the proposal and investigators involved. The cover letter must be a separate PDF document from the full proposal. Application Deadline is October 1 of each year. Please submit your materials in Word or PDF format electronically to bvanlune@odu.edu. No paper copies will be accepted.**