

**RESEARCH FUND PROPOSAL
PROGRAM SOLICITATION
MAATA**

I. PROGRAM: MAATA Research Fund Proposal

II. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: This funding initiative is designed to advance the field of athletic training by supporting innovative and impactful research through a competitive award process. This funding opportunity provides financial support for projects that address critical research needs among members of the MAATA. Its goals are to rapidly respond to emerging research questions, foster new partnerships, and promote research that has potential to create meaningful, lasting contributions within athletic training.

III. PROPOSAL TIMELINES

Release of RFP: September 1 (Annually)

Submission: October 1 (Due by 5 p.m. EST)

Decisions: November 1

IV. AWARD INFORMATION:

A. Estimated Number of Awards: Various awards will be distributed and are contingent upon the availability of funds (\$5,000 maximum available).

B. Period of Award: The work may begin as early as January 1, and expenditures will need to be completed by no later than December 31.

C. Eligible Expenses: Justified expenses may include investigator and research assistant salaries, honorariums, materials, travel, and supplies. If courses are bought out, only the amount for the adjunct hire should be accounted for.

D. Ineligible Expenses: Overhead, computers, laptops, and *common* software are ineligible expenses.

E. No overhead is allowable.

V. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION:

A. Eligible applicants: Athletic Trainers who are members of the MAATA are eligible to apply as principal investigators (PIs). Members of the MAATA Research and Grants Committee are welcome to apply, but must recuse themselves from scoring and discussion of the application. PIs must be a BOC certified athletic trainer in good standing and hold an NPI number. Early career PIs are strongly encouraged to apply; however the RFP is open to all.

B. Limit on Number of Applications per PI: One proposal per funding cycle.

C. Additional Eligibility Requirements:

1. The funds may not be used to fund research for which any applicant already is or will be receiving funding support unless the funding is associated with a separate component not already funded by the current mechanism.

VI. PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

- A. Procedure:** A full proposal should be submitted electronically in one single PDF document by the deadline. Late and/or non-compliant applications will not be considered for funding.
- B. Format:** Total page length of 7 pages maximum (1-page Specific Aims + 6 pages Research Strategy) with no less than ½ inch margins and font size ≥ 11 (single-spaced allowed).
- C. Proposal Package**

1. Specific Aims (1 page limit)

Investigators should include: 1) relevant background information, 2) the overall project objective, 3) the specific aim(s) accompanied by hypotheses, if applicable, 4) the general approach to be taken to achieve the aim(s), 5) the project's potential impact on the athletic training profession, and 6) the long-term goal of the application or investigator(s).

2. Research Strategy (6 page limit)

Within the Research Strategy, the applicant should structure the application with sections on Significance, Innovation, and Approach. When reviewing, the evaluators will consider the questions outlined below to determine scientific and technical merit and give a separate score for each. An application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have a major scientific impact. For example, a project that, by its nature, is not innovative may be essential to advancing the field.

Significance. Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field? Is there a strong scientific premise for the project? If the project aims are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice be improved? How will successfully completing the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions driving this field?

Investigator(s). Are the PIs, collaborators, and other researchers well suited to the project? Do New Investigators have appropriate experience and training? Do established investigator(s) have an ongoing record of accomplishments that have advanced their field(s)? If the project is collaborative or multi-PI, do the investigators have complementary and integrated expertise; are their leadership approach, governance, and organizational structure appropriate for the project?

Innovation. Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical Athletic Training practice or education paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions? Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense? Is a

refinement, improvement, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions proposed?

Approach. Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Have the investigators presented strategies to ensure a robust and unbiased approach, as appropriate for the work proposed? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and a timeline for success presented? If the project is in the early stages of development, will the strategy establish feasibility and will particularly risky aspects be managed? Have the investigators presented adequate plans to address relevant biological variables, such as sex, for studies in human subjects? Are the statistical approaches well explained and adequately powered.

Environment. Will the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Are the institutional support, equipment and other physical resources available to the investigators adequate for the project proposed? Will the project benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, subject populations, or collaborative arrangements?

3. Appendices

Beyond the Research Strategy, the additional information outlined below should be uploaded as appendices. These pages do not count against the Research Strategy 6-page limit. Additional content addressing the research approach that is included in an appendix will not be considered.

Appendix A: Timeline

Should clearly identify a progressive timeline (including specific dates) for completion of the project. At the time of submission, the timeline should clearly show that the study has NOT already started (i.e. data collection has begun). The only exception is that the IRB process may have been initiated, but no subject recruitment or actual data collection should be underway.

Appendix B: Additional Materials

Appendix B should contain materials that support the Research Approach. When available and applicable, the following materials should be presented in this appendix:

1. Informed consent form
2. Survey instrument(s)
3. Interview script(s)
4. Multi-PI and/or multi-site plan
5. Power Analysis and Power Calculation methods and rationale for proposed

sample size (proposed studies not requiring a power analysis should still provide a rationale for the proposed sample size)

6. Measurement capabilities, validity and reliability of instruments (including questionnaires)

7. Additional materials, e.g., Latin Square table, technical drawings, or IRB approval may also be included.

Appendix C: Budget and Budget Justification

This appendix must include the overall budget for the complete project. Specific notations should be made as to which items will be covered by the funds requested from the MAATA Research and Grants Committee. Following the itemization of the budget, a justification for each budgeted item must be included. Other sponsors (i.e. sources of funding, in-kind or donated items, etc.) and the nature of their support must also be indicated. Grant monies may not be used to pay indirect (overhead) costs.

The following must be specifically addressed:

Salaries/Wages: All monies that will be used to provide salaries, hourly wages or assistantships for this project. If salary is requested, identify the percentage of effort and base salary used for the calculation. For example: 10% effort and a salary of \$40,000 per year = \$4,000 requested for salary support. If salary support will be donated, this must be stated along with the effort percentage.

Fringe Benefits: The current percentages and amounts of money that will be used to pay fringe benefits and other payroll expenses for those persons receiving salaries, hourly wages or assistantships.

Equipment & Supplies: This includes all purchases necessary to complete the project that will be acquired through funds provided as part of the grant. Specify the company, model and cost of individual equipment items in the justification. General supplies do not need to be itemized.

Travel Costs: The principal investigator (PI) or a pre-approved individual will be obligated to present the results of the study at a future MAATA meeting. Therefore, if travel is required then the presenter's travel cost to and from the event is a bona fide budget item. Two nights lodging and per diem expense for two days are allowed, in addition to transportation costs. Travel expenses for data collection are also allowable.

Appendix D: Personnel

This appendix must include a biographical sketch for each individual (key personnel) involved with the project, formatted using the sample biosketch format at the end of this document. Key personnel typically include all individuals with

doctoral or other professional degrees. However, in some projects, this will include individuals at the master's or baccalaureate level, provided they contribute in a substantive way to the project's scientific development or execution. Each completed sketch must not exceed two pages.

Appendix E: Facilities

This appendix will contain a description of the facilities that are currently available for the completion of the project. If a facility (e.g., laboratory, high school, clinic, etc.) will be used that is not controlled directly by the unit employing the Principal Investigator, a letter from the facility's director, indicating that the facility will be available for the duration of the study, must be included.

Appendix F: Articles and/or additional information (optional)

This appendix may include copies of published or in-press manuscripts (maximum of three) that support the work proposed in this application. This section may include additional information or materials that the Principal Investigator wishes to provide in support of the grant proposal.

Appendix G: References

Provide complete bibliographic information for references cited in this proposal. The use of AMA style is recommended.

Submission Instructions: Save the components as a single Adobe PDF document and name the document with the lead PI's last name. Submit via email to bvanlune@odu.edu with subject "MAATA Research Funding Proposal Submission".

VII. REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS

- A. Proposal Review:** RFP's are reviewed by the committee members of the Research & Grants Committee which is comprised of research trained faculty with peer-reviewed publication records and expertise in athletic training. The final decision will be strongly informed by the reviews/ranking provided by the reviewers.
- B. Proposal Review Criteria:** Proposals will be ranked according to the NIH scoring system, a 9-point rating scale (1 = exceptional, 9 = poor) in whole numbers (no decimals) for each section (i.e., Significance, Innovation, etc) and Overall Impact for all applications. Scores of 1 or 9 will be used less frequently than the other scores, while 5 is for a good medium-impact application and considered an average score. The Overall Impact score is based on the reviewer's overall impression of the application as they see fit. Note that an application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have major scientific impact and thus, deserve a high impact score. See the figure below for an explanation of scoring.

Overall Impact or Criterion Strength	Score	Descriptor
High	1	Exceptional
	2	Outstanding
	3	Excellent
Medium	4	Very Good
	5	Good
	6	Satisfactory
Low	7	Fair
	8	Marginal
	9	Poor
Other Designations for Final Outcome		
AB	Abstention	
CF	Conflict of Interest	
DF	Deferred	
ND	Not Discussed	
NP	Not Present	
NR	Not Recommended for Further Consideration	

VIII. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

A. Notification of the Award: Notice of awards will be made by November 1st.

B. Obligations of Award Recipients:

1. By accepting the award, the applicant team agrees to complete the research project described within the prescribed project period.
2. Recipients are expected to acknowledge the support of the MAATA when making publications as a result of this award. The following statement should be used: This research was supported by the MAATA.
3. Recipients are expected to present the findings of the research at a subsequent MAATA meeting.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Provide the following information for the Senior/key personnel and other significant contributors.
Follow this format for each person. **DO NOT EXCEED TWO PAGES.**

NAME:

POSITION TITLE:

EDUCATION/TRAINING (*Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education*)

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY

A. EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

B. PUBLICATIONS SUPPORTING PROPOSED WORK

C. FUNDING HISTORY