

E-SEED GRANTS

Track 1: Planning Grant

Track 2: Positioning Grant

The College of Engineering research office offers engineering seed (E-SEED) funding program under two different tracks to support faculty research in emerging thrust areas, strengthen interdisciplinary teams, build research and innovation capacity or other faculty-led initiatives that will grow the research enterprise of the college. Faculty are encouraged to review other faculty support programs in the College of Engineering such as **REACH, REVIVE, NURTURE and PIVOT** to understand and differentiate the goals of those faculty support programs and of this E-SEED program to avoid overlap. Where it is appropriate, support from multiple programs can be leveraged for maximum impact. The E-SEED seed program has two tracks.

Track 1 - Planning Grants: The planning grant is a pre-seed program that supports the formation of collaborative teams with an eventual end goal. The end-goal might be the formation of a center/institute, submission of a large multi-institutional grant proposal (e.g. NSF Convergence Accelerator, NSF Innovation Engines, NSF Engineering Research Center etc.), building capacity and infrastructure, strategic investments in high priority areas, consolidate resources around a new research thrust or other activities that require large team effort. The primary objective of this planning grant is to establish a road map or strategy in achieving specific goals within a given time frame. Small grants in the range of **\$3000-\$5000** will be awarded under Track 1. Funds can be used for organizing meetings, workshops, travel, certain subscriptions, administrative staff support and research supplies as needed. The funds cannot be used for faculty salaries or for publication expenses. The Track 1 planning grant, can be leveraged with **REACH** or other CENGR faculty support programs for maximizing the impact.

Track 2 - Positioning Grants: The positioning grant is a larger seed funding program than the planning grant, whose main purpose is to position collaborative research teams of more than 3 faculty investigators towards a large (>5M) external grant funding opportunity in the future. This funding mechanism can be used to strengthen an existing team or research thrust, increase team's competitiveness, address deficiencies through additional research or building new collaboration etc. If necessary, this funding mechanism can also be used to perform research and collect preliminary data based on reviewers' feedback from previous submissions. Proposals that do not identify a specific external funding opportunity are not high priority for this mechanism. Grants in the range of **\$15,000 to \$25,000** will be awarded under Track 2. The funds can be used for graduate student salaries, travel, lab supplies and software as deemed necessary and appropriate. The funds cannot be used for faculty salaries or for publication expenses. The Track 2 positioning grant, can be leveraged with **REACH, NURTURE** or other CENGR faculty support programs for maximizing the impact.

Eligibility and Limitations: Both tracks are open only to tenured/tenure-track and non-tenure track research faculty. Track 2 requires a project team of at least three faculty members. Faculty cannot submit to more than two E-SEED grants under any track in a given fiscal year. Proposals with same ideas or similar scope cannot be submitted simultaneously to both tracks. Inclusion of an external investigator is allowed, but the grant funds cannot be used to support non-engineering students or personnel.

Reports: At the end of the fiscal year by June 30, a one-page progress report must be submitted. The report must include a summary of activities performed, results to date, and proposal submission plans or sponsor results/reviews, (if known), status of the proposal if submitted to the external funding agency with UGA proposal ID number. Project team may also be asked to provide a progress update presentation to the Senior Associate Dean.

Review Process

The proposals will be reviewed by based on the following criteria:

- Suitability of proposal for the E-SEED objectives
- Team strengths including history of ongoing or previous collaboration
- Feasibility of accomplishing the tasks and activities proposed within the project duration
- Potential impact of the proposed collaboration in creating new connections, enhancing visibility for the college, or/and future funding potential
- Itemized budget reasonable and adequate to accomplish goals

Applications Instructions:

- Track 1 Deadlines: **September 1, 2024 (for Fall); February 1, 2025 (for Spring)** by 5 PM.
- Track 2 Deadline: **September 1, 2024**. Only one review cycle per year.
- Proposals will be processed and reviewed as quickly as administratively possible.
- Applications must be submitted via email to Joyce Rice (jrrice@uga.edu) as a combined PDF document with "E-SEED GRANT APPLICATION" as subject line. The application package must combine the following documents:
 1. Cover/Signature Page: The cover page should contain the proposal title, intended track (1-planning, 2-positioning), investigator names and e-mails and other contact information, budget, and signatures of investigators and respective school chairs.
 2. Proposal: 1 page for track 1, 2 pages for track 2.
Description of the proposed idea and the expected impact. The proposal must elaborately describe the project tasks and address the items listed in the review criteria. Include a description of how the funds will be spent. Please indicate the anticipated date and agencies of potential proposals submission. Include a detailed budget and justification that lists the projected expenses and other sources of funding.
 3. (optional) Support letter from School Chair or Director if funding supplement is provided by the schools.