



Student Grants: Research, Creative Activity, and Scholarship (RCAS)

FY 2026–2027 Request for Proposals (RFP)

Purpose: The Student RCAS grant program provides seed funding to support student-initiated research, creative activity, and scholarship. Students work collaboratively with faculty mentors to develop original projects and contribute to their discipline.

2026-2027 Student RCAS Snapshot	
Total Funding Available to Award	\$15,000
Application Period Opens	July 1, 2026
Application Deadline	Accepted on a rolling basis, through Nov 20, 2026
Award Notification	Within 10 business days of a complete submission
Project Period	Begins upon award issuance through May 7, 2027
A complete submission consists of four components	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Application Form (PDF) - signed2. Project Narrative (PDF)3. Budget with justification (Excel)4. Mentor Statement (PDF)
Maximum award amounts	Undergraduate: up to \$500 Graduate: up to \$1,000

Student RCAS grants are supported through a recurring appropriation received by JU from the Florida Department of Education. All awards issued under this Request for Proposals are contingent upon final approval of the EPIC budget by the Governor of Florida, anticipated on or around July 1, 2026.

Full Proposal Guidelines

1. Purpose

The Student RCAS program provides seed funding to support student-initiated research, creative activity, and scholarship. Competitive awards assist students in developing new lines of inquiry, including the collection and analysis of pilot data. Funding is provided through the EPIC grant from the Florida Department of Education.

2. Eligibility

General Requirements:

- At least one student applicant and one faculty sponsor required
- Projects must be student-initiated
- Funds may not support faculty-only research

Eligible Students:

- Undergraduate (freshman–senior)
- Graduate (master’s level)

Presentation Requirement:

- Students must present at JU Student Symposium (Spring 2027), as applicable.
- Doctoral students typically present via dissertation defense, as applicable
- Awardees are encouraged to notify ORSP of presentation details

Faculty Mentor Responsibilities:

- Provide active mentorship and guidance
- Submit Faculty Mentor Statement

3. Evaluation of Proposals

All complete proposals will be reviewed by the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP). Applications are evaluated on a rolling basis as they are received.

Proposals will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- **Clarity and Quality of the Project**
The proposal clearly defines the purpose, goals, and approach of the project.
- **Feasibility**
The project is well-planned and can be completed within the proposed timeline and budget.

- **Student Engagement and Learning**
The project demonstrates meaningful student involvement and contributes to the student’s academic or professional development.
- **Role of the Faculty Mentor**
The mentor provides appropriate guidance and support to ensure project success.
- **Appropriateness of the Budget**
Requested funds are reasonable, well-justified, and aligned with the project activities.

Funding decisions will also consider the availability of funds and the goal of supporting a diverse range of disciplines and projects. Applicants will be notified of funding decisions within approximately **10 business days** of submission of a complete application.

4. Timeline

- Applications: Accepted anytime between July 1, 2026, through Nov 20, 2026
- Decisions: Issued on a rolling basis through Dec 4, 2026
- Project Period: Award date through May 1, 2027
- All awarded funds must be used by March 1, 2027

5. Submission Instructions

1. A complete application must include all four components:

Component 1: Application Form, signed (download from ORSP site)

Component 2: Project Narrative, max 5 pages

Component 3: Budget + Justification (download from ORSP site)

Component 4: Faculty Mentor Statement

2. File Naming Convention: Use the last name of the student to name each file, like this:

“Smith_Application”; “Smith_Narrative”; “Smith_Budget”; “Smith_Mentor”

3. Attach all four documents to email and submit to ORSP@JU.EDU anytime between July 1 and November 20. Subject Line of Email: “FY 27 Student RCAS – Smith”

Component 1: Application

- Download form, complete, and obtain signatures

Component 2: Project Narrative

- Maximum 5 pages

- 1-inch margins
- 12-point font (Times New Roman or Arial)
- 1.5 line spacing
- Footer with project title and page number

Required Sections with Recommended Lengths:

- Introduction (~½ page)
- Literature Review (~½ page)
- Methodology (~1 page)
- Outcomes (~1 page)
- Broader Impacts (1–2 paragraphs)
- Timeline (~½ page)
- References (APA, not included in page limit)

Component 3: Budget

- Download template from ORSP site
- Review sample budget posted on ORSP site, under Student RCAS
- All costs must include calculations and explanation
- Funds may not be used for any expenses prior to the date ORSP issued the award
- All purchased items remain property of Jacksonville University.

Eligible Expenses:

- Supplies, small equipment, conference registration, in-state travel (with approval)

Ineligible Expenses:

- Wages, faculty salary, gifts, computers/laptops/tablets, out-of-state travel

Component 4: Faculty Mentor Statement

- Maximum 1 page
- Describe mentor role, tasks supervised, and mentoring approach
- Provide individualized descriptions for multiple students

6. Submission Procedure

- Email to ORSP@ju.edu
- Attach all components as separate files, following naming conventions on Page 3
- Subject line: Student RCAS – LastName

- Late/incomplete submissions will not be reviewed

7. Awardee Requirements

- Must present at symposium or dissertation defense, as applicable
- Expenditures must follow approved budget
- Purchases via PO when possible
- Student Reimbursements made via Expense Report only
- All funds must be used by March 1, 2027 or forfeited