Spring 2021 Request for Proposals
Graduate Student Research Grant Program

Mission
The University of Minnesota Healthy Foods, Healthy Lives Institute (HFHL) aims to increase and sustain the University’s impact in the interdisciplinary arena of food, agriculture and health by building the University’s capacity in research, learning and community engagement.

Grant Program
HFHL’s grant programs utilize UMN funds to advance scientific and public knowledge and to influence public policy. Students may seek support for research and/or other activities that utilize novel and innovative approaches to answer potentially high impact research questions. The request should seek to establish cross-disciplinary learning and engagement.

Eligibility
Applicants must be current University of Minnesota students (from any campus or department) in good standing who are enrolled in post-baccalaureate programs and working towards a doctoral, master’s, or professional degree.

Grant Categories
All proposals must be relevant to at least one grant category.

- Food protection (safety)
- Prevention of obesity and diet-related disease
- Food security

Priority Areas
All proposals must address at least one priority area.

- Integration of agriculture & health sciences
- High potential to directly inform systemic change
Funding

- Applicants may seek grant funds ranging from $2,000-$10,000 for one year.
  - The funds must be spent within the allotted time period, although no-cost extensions will be allowed with appropriate justification and acceptable progress.

- No-cost extensions, and overall success of projects, will be determined by potential expected outcomes including:
  - New competitive advantages
  - Strong synergies developed across disciplines
  - Interdisciplinary publications
  - Proposal submission(s) for extramural funding
  - Generation of significant preliminary data
  - Integration of research and engagement activities related to public impact
  - Graduate theses and doctoral dissertations

- Up to $20,000 total will be awarded each cycle.

Appropriate uses of funding include:

- Non-recurring salary funds to support the student’s independent study project*
- Research materials or supplies
- Travel expenses
- Student initiated programs or colloquium
- Purchase of support services for research
- Other direct project expenses

Funds may not be used to support:

- Ongoing research or existing programs
- Faculty-initiated research
- Faculty salaries
- Indirect costs

*Priority for salary support will be given to students who are not already receiving support for their dissertation research as RAs with 50% appointment. Students on assistantships or fellowships must describe the scope of their work and existing support to be considered for salary funds from HFHL.
Proposal Requirements

• Minimum font size eleven
• Cover Sheet (The Cover Sheet Template can be found HERE)
  - Project title
  - Grant category and priority area
  - Name
  - Email
  - Degree and graduate or professional program
  - Expected year of degree completion
  - Faculty advisor name, email, and department
• Abstract (not to exceed 300 words)
• Research Plan (not to exceed 3 pages)
  - Statement of Hypothesis and Specific Aims
  - Background and Rationale
  - Preliminary Results (if applicable)
  - Research Design and Methods
• Budget and budget justification
• Biosketch for applicant and any co-investigators on the project
• Letter of support from faculty advisor showing cross-disciplinary learning and verifying that project funds will not be used for ongoing research that is already funded
• Documentation of approvals necessary to conduct the proposed project or application
  - dates for required approvals
• Separate, one-page, document addressing the following questions:
  - How is this project interdisciplinary and why is an interdisciplinary approach necessary?
  - How is this proposal highly innovative?
  - What is the potential impact of this proposal?
  - How will this research be useful to you as you advance in your studies here at the U and in your future work endeavors?

Application Process

• The deadline for submission is 5:00pm, Friday, April 30, 2021. By the deadline, an electronic copy (.pdf) of the grant application must be emailed to hfhl@umn.edu.

• Awards will be announced by June 26, 2021. Funding will commence July 1, 2021.
Grant Review Process

The HFHL Institute Director will select the reviewers, with advice from the HFHL Advisory Board. The review panel will include faculty members from multiple colleges and disciplines, and may include external reviewers. Recommendations of the review panel will be submitted to the HFHL Director for final decision and approval.

Grant Review Criteria

- Innovation
- Significance (potential impact)
- Utilization and expansion of existing research opportunities
- Quality of the research proposal
- Integration of cross-disciplinary thinking and collaboration

Continued Participation Requirements

- Surveys
  - After the funding period, HFHL sends periodic requests for grantees to complete surveys that help keep up-to-date records about outcomes and accomplishments related to grantee research—grantees are expected to complete the surveys.

- Publications
  - HFHL requests that all grantee publications, including research publications, press releases and other publications or documents about research that is funded by HFHL must include a specific acknowledgment of HFHL grant support, including a grant award number, if provided.

Please contact HFHL via hfhl@umn.edu for assistance throughout the application process.