

Funding Dissertation Research

How do I fund my dissertation?

It is beneficial to obtain your own funding. You gain experience writing a grant, learn to control your own budget, and improve the look of your CV for future employment. There may be many grants available to you but obtaining funding requires careful planning and early initiative. First, decide what your dissertation topic will be. It will take 6 to 12 months after you apply for a grant to have the funds in your hand. Second, once you have chosen your dissertation topic, search for funding opportunities.

Resources that can help you search for funding include

- Library's information on search toolkits, printed resources, and databases
- Publicly available search engines such as Google or Yahoo
- Printed resources such as
 - Boorkman's chapter on Grant Sources in the book by Boorkman et al., Introduction to Reference Sources in the Health Sciences. This chapter is easy to read and includes directories for federal and private funding sources.
 - The Annual Register of Grant Support is a good source for foundation funding.
 - McGrath's Grant Seekers Guide: Foundations that Support Social and Economic Justice is a good source for foundations that fund social science research
- Funding Databases
 - Community of Science
 - Grants.gov (<http://www.grants.gov>)
 - GrantsNet (<http://www.grantnets.org>)
- National Institutes of Health Grants
 - National Research Service Award (NRSA)
- Private Grants, Fellowships, and Scholarships
 - Professional organizations at the local, state, national, or international level
 - Start by checking the professional organizations you are a member of
 - Private foundations that promote research and leadership in a particular area of health care or social science
 - Talk to other students who are ahead of you
 - Talk to faculty in your area of research
 - When you are reading articles of interest to you, notice who funded their research.
 - Private foundations may make the statement that they "do not fund individuals". Don't let this keep you from pursuing them. You are conducting research as part of a university, not as an individual.
 - The Foundation Center's database (<http://www.foundationcenter.org>) may be available through your library. You can also check out the website yourself for a fee.
- Check out your own institution for support of your dissertation work
- There are several sources of funding for your dissertation. Be persistent in your attempts to get funded. If you do not get funding from one source, keep on trying and do not take it personally. You will learn how to improve your grant writing skills for a submission somewhere else. You might even want to submit a revised proposal to the same source that denied you funding the first time. Keep a close eye on application deadlines.

- Most funding sources to doctoral students do not provide large amounts of money. Depending on the amount of money your budget requires, it is possible that you might have to fund your dissertation with several smaller grants.
- The more grant writing you participate in, the more your grant writing skills will improve.
- There are sources of funding and there is one that is right for you!
- <http://healthlinks.washington.edu/rfs/talks/finding.html>
- Three Rules of Submission according to Cortez and Trent (Graduate Research Assistants at UIC)
 - Carefully read the program announcement
 - Give yourself time to write your grant
 - Allow six weeks for letters of recommendation
 - Remember you may need IRB approval
 - You may need to provide a budget and/or work plan with your proposal
 - Procedures within UTHSC will need to be followed

Websites with Dissertation Funding Resources

Boston College: Dissertation Support

<http://www.bc.edu/research/osp/funding/external/dissuport.html>

Center for Nursing Research, University at Buffalo, The State University of New York

<http://nursing.buffalo.edu/research/predoctoral.shtml>

Columbia University School of Social Work

http://www.columbia.edu/cu/ssw/phdprogram/financial/dissertation_funding.html

National Science Foundation Directorate for Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences (SBE): SBE Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants

<http://www.nsf.gov/sbe/ses/law/lawguide1.jsp>

NLN Foundation for Nursing Education: Funding Opportunities

http://www.nlnfoundation.org/Funding_Opportunities.cfm

Southern Nursing Research Society (SNRS) Dissertation Awards

<http://snrs.org/research/dissertationgrants.html>

Tufts University Office of Graduate Studies

http://gradstudy.tufts.edu/1176904810094/GradStudy-Page-gradstudy2ws_1176904810178.html

University of Washington: Research Funding Service

<http://healthlinks.washington.edu/rfs/talks/finding.html>

Western Institute of Nursing: Student's Corner

<http://www.ohsu.edu/son/win/students/roscigno.shtml>

<http://www.ohsu.edu/son/win/students/kemp.shtml>