2010 ARP Research Assistantship Program

Purpose:

The Agricultural Research Programs (ARP) Research Assistantships are awarded each year on a competitive basis in an effort to support new tenure-track Assistant Professors as they establish their research programs by providing funding for graduate student research. A primary purpose of this program is to develop and promote research ideas which may be developed into proposals for extramural funding. Important areas of research not having access to outside sources of funding will also be considered.

Only tenure-track Assistant Professors in the Colleges of Agriculture, Consumer and Family Sciences, and Veterinary Medicine who have been members of the Purdue University faculty for less than three years as of October 1, 2009 are eligible. A tenure-track Assistant Professor may receive only one ARP Research Assistantship during his/her first three years of employment.

General Information:

- Individual Assistant Professors may submit only one proposal. Proposals are due electronically in pdf format to ARP before 5:00 PM on Monday, November 2, 2009.

- The ARP Research Assistantship stipend amount will be $17,500 per year. Funds will be available July 1, 2010. Assistantships are awarded for one year, but may be renewed for a second year pending written confirmation of satisfactory research progress by the graduate student.

- The stipend may be used for MS or PhD student assistantships.

- The ARP Research Assistantships must be activated no later than June 30, 2011. Funds will be released to the departmental business office when a graduate student is activated on the assistantship.

- Awards are limited to ARP-affiliated departments and to tenure-track Assistant Professors with an ARP appointment on an approved Hatch, McIntire-Stennis, or Animal Health (Federal-formula) research project. If an Assistant Professor does not have an approved Federal-formula project, one may be developed at the time of application for the ARP Assistantship or prior to an award. However, assistantship funds will be allocated only after approval of the Federal-formula funded research project.

Proposal Structure:

1. **Cover Page:** Prepare a cover page with the project title, faculty investigator name, and faculty contact information (campus address, email, telephone).

2. **Abstract:** Provide a concise summary of the proposed project. (Limited to one page double spaced)

3. **Background:** Provide a discussion of the problem/hypothesis to be addressed and other appropriate literature review. Provide a justification in “lay language” which explains why this research is important to the mission areas of the respective Colleges, e.g., agriculture, rural communities, food, health, animal disease, and/or natural resources.
Also discuss any preliminary data or previous work in a related area. (Limited to four pages double spaced)

4. Research Objectives: Describe the specific objective(s) of the proposed project. The objective(s) should be appropriate for a graduate student and attainable during the two-year assistantship period. (Limited to one page double spaced)

5. Plan of Work: Describe the procedures, methods, and analytical approaches to be used to achieve the stated objective(s). Be sure to explain how the methods and analysis being proposed will contribute to achieving your research objective(s) and addressing the problem or hypothesis. Also, discuss expected results as well as any potential problems that could be encountered and how these might be addressed. (Limited to four pages double spaced)

6. References: Normally six to twelve key references should be sufficient.

7. Curriculum Vitae: Include a CV (up to 2 pages) that includes your education (degrees obtained and institutions), relevant employment history, and most relevant publications. Other items may be included as long as the page limit is not exceeded.

Format:

- The text and figures for the Abstract through the Plan of Work (items 2-5 above) shall be limited to 10 pages, double-spaced. Cover sheet, references, and vita will not count against the 10 page limit. No appendix is allowed.
- Do not use a less than 12-point font for all components.
- Do not use less than 1 inch margins for all components.
- Proposals that do not meet the above specifications (including the proposal structure) will not be considered.

Please send an electronic copy in pdf format via e-mail to jcrum@purdue.edu by no later than 5:00 pm, Monday, November 2, 2009.

Proposal Writing Tip:

Keep in mind that the panel of reviewers will be made up of faculty from diverse backgrounds representing departments in the Colleges of Agriculture, Consumer & Family Sciences, and Veterinary Medicine. Proposals must adequately describe the justification for the work and the methodology to be used in a way that allows a diverse group to evaluate the merits of the project. However, methods should be detailed enough to clearly demonstrate that the investigator has a well thought-out plan to test the hypothesis.

Evaluation Criteria: (see attached reviewer evaluation sheet for more information)

Proposals will be ranked based on the overall quality and scientific merit of the proposal. Reviewers will evaluate the appropriateness of the project for a graduate student and the feasibility of completion within the two-year timeline of the assistantship. They will also consider how well the investigator demonstrates knowledge and capability in the proposed area of research. Priority will be given to proposals that clearly link the proposed research to an important problem(s) consistent with the mission areas of our respective Colleges associated with ARP, e.g., agriculture, rural communities, food, health, animal diseases, and/or natural resources. All questions regarding proposal preparation should be directed to Marshall Martin (4-8365 or marshallmartin@purdue.edu).
Review Form for ARP Assistantship Proposals (revised 1/2009)

Title: ______________________________________

PI: ______________________________________

Score

1. Problem or hypothesis clearly indentified and stated (15 Points)
   ______________________________________

2. Addresses relevancy of project (e.g., agriculture, rural communities, food, health, or natural resources and is eventual application discussed?) (10 points)
   ______________________________________

3. Objective(s) appropriate, specific and logically arranged (5 points)
   ______________________________________

4. Evidence presented that investigator has performed related work and is capable of doing the work proposed (10 points)
   ______________________________________

5. Feasibility of attaining objective(s) during the project (10 points)
   ______________________________________

6. Appropriate methodology chosen to complete objective(s) (20 points)
   ______________________________________

7. Overall scientific and technical quality of proposal (15 points)
   ______________________________________

8. Appropriate for graduate student research project (15 points)
   ______________________________________

Overall priority for funding: 
   ○ High    ○ Medium    ○ Low

Additional Comments: (Strengths, weaknesses, suggestions for improving the proposal):

Submit by Email    Print Form