



The University of Texas at Austin
College of Natural Sciences

STENGL-WYER ENDOWMENT GRANTS PROGRAM

2026 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ON EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

Submission Deadline: March 2, 2026 at 5:00 PM CT

OVERVIEW

Funded by the Stengl-Wyer Endowment, the 2026 [Stengl-Wyer Endowment Grants Program](#) request for proposals seeks applications for educational programming supporting undergraduate and graduate studies and training in the diversity of life and interactions between organisms and their natural environments. Proposals that advance research within the [Texas Field Station Network](#) or [UT Biodiversity Collections](#) are highly encouraged given the Stengl-Wyer Endowment's mission to explore the diversity of life and organisms in their natural environments.

Educational programs of interest may include, but are not limited to, 1) innovative models for support of graduate students to study the diversity of life and interactions between organisms and their natural environments, 2) undergraduate summer research fellowships and streams within the [Freshman Research Initiative \(FRI\)](#), and 3) engagement with public or K-12 audiences. Proposed FRI streams must be discussed with the FRI office (fri@utexas.edu) prior to submission and will require a letter of support to be included with the application. Proposals that include activities at Texas Field Station Network sites or UT Biodiversity Collections are encouraged to contact and coordinate with the affiliated site leadership prior to submission.

Educational programs may be proposed for a period of up to three (3) years with a maximum budget of \$125,000. Award funds will be available for one year beyond the proposed period. Additional no-cost extensions will not be considered; any remaining funds will be swept after the award expires. The 2026 competition is for educational activities only. **Proposals are due by 5:00 PM CT on March 2, 2026.**

ELIGIBILITY

- Tenure track faculty, non-tenure track faculty, and those with active Principal Investigator (PI) status in the College of Natural Sciences are eligible to apply.
- A PI previously awarded a grant for an Educational Program is not eligible to apply for a subsequent Educational Program grant during the period of performance of the previously awarded program.
- Non-awarded applicants from previous cycles may resubmit their proposals once for a total of two submissions.

APPLICATION COMPONENTS

All application documents should be formatted using 1-inch margins and no smaller than 11-point font. Recommended fonts are Arial, Georgia, Helvetica, and Times New Roman. The following documents are all required and must be submitted as a single PDF file by the application deadline:

1. **Lay Summary.** In 200 words or less, describe for a general audience the proposed program and its potential impact on the development of innovative learning methods for studying the diversity of life and interactions between organisms and their natural environments, as well as learning outcomes.
2. **Program Plan.** Limit to three (3) pages, including figures and excluding citations. Organize the proposal in the specified order using the section headings below and the following instructions:
 - a. *Rationale and vision.* Explain the innovative and transformative nature of the proposed program, and how it supports undergraduate or graduate studies and training in the diversity of life and interactions between organisms and their natural environments.
 - b. *Target population and learning outcomes.* Identify target population(s) and describe expected learning outcomes.
 - c. *Participants.* List PI, Co-PI(s), and others making significant contributions to the project, and provide a clear explanation of each participant's role in the project.
3. **Bibliography/References.** No page limit. List sources in a section separate from the Program Plan.
4. **Existing Resources and Future Pursuits.** Limit to one (1) page. Describe existing programs, field stations, collections, and in-place capacities that will support your proposed program. Include a description of prior engagement with leadership field stations and collections. Describe your plan to secure sustained support and/or to implement programs in pursuit of similar learning outcomes following the end of the requested funding from the Stengl-Wyer Endowment Grant Program.
5. **Budget and Budget Justification.** No page limit. Submit a detailed budget outlining expenditures in appropriate categories. Budgets for multi-year proposals should show costs for each year proposed. Clearly justify each major expense in the budget justification. Budgets may include tuition and stipends for graduate students. Budgets should not include faculty salary (e.g., summer salary) or indirect costs/facilities and administrative fees. Funding levels for maintenance and operations (M&O) for the field stations and the collections are determined separately and should not be included in the proposed budget. Other resources that will be committed to the effort, such as support from academic units, should also be outlined. The size of the budget is considered in funding decisions. Small budget proposals are welcome.
6. **Letter of Support.** Applications proposing an FRI stream must include a letter of support from the FRI director. Email fri@utexas.edu to discuss your project, ensure feasibility, and request a letter of support. Applications that do not include this letter of support will not be reviewed.
7. **Resubmissions & Results from Prior Stengl-Wyer Support.** Limit to two (2) pages. Address the following as applicable to resubmission applications and/or applicants

who have previously accepted funding through the Stengl-Wyer Endowment Grant Program.

- a. *Resubmissions*. For applications being resubmitted for consideration, please list the prior submission, including date and title, and summarize any changes made to address prior reviews or to otherwise improve or update the proposal.
 - b. *Results From Prior Support*. For each previous Stengl-Wyer Endowment Program award, list the award title and briefly describe the results and products of research, educational activities, and/or research-driven enhancements. Include awards for which the applicant is a PI or Co-PI and that may be complete or ongoing. Products include submission of external proposals for continued support.
8. **Biosketches/CVs and Current and Pending Support**. Submit biosketches/CVs and Current and Pending Support documents for all participating faculty and Co-PI(s).

APPLICATION SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

All required application documents listed in the Application Components section above should be combined and uploaded as a single PDF and submitted by the application deadline.

Applications must be submitted through UT's online submission interface. To apply:

1. Visit <https://utexas.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1984427>
2. Click the "Apply" button on the Competition Space page.
3. This will take you to a login screen. Applicants with an existing UT EID and password should login using the "University of Texas Web Login" button. Login using your UT EID and password to create your application.
4. You will be taken to an online application form. Complete the form and upload the required application components. Click "Submit Application" at the bottom of the page. You also have the option to save a draft and return later to submit your application.

Note: *If this is your first time submitting a proposal through the proposal submission website, you will first need to affiliate yourself with the College before you can submit. To do this, login with your EID and password, then click on the "Hello, [Name]" link at the top right of the website. This will take you to your user profile. In your user profile, under "Primary School or Department," select "Natural Sciences, College of" and then scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the Save Changes button. You will now be able to apply.*

REVIEW PROCESS AND CRITERIA

A review committee will evaluate the submitted proposals to identify the programs that will have the greatest potential to advance the study of the diversity of life and interactions between organisms and their natural environments through education. The review committee will provide its recommendations to the Stengl-Wyer Endowment Committee and the CNS Dean (or designate) for final approval based on available funding.

Applications will be reviewed using the following criteria, and unsuccessful applications will be provided with a summary of review comments:

- **Investigator(s):** Consider the PI's training history and teaching accomplishments relevant to career rank.
- **Proposed program:** Consider innovation, relevance, inclusion of students from diverse backgrounds and experiences, and inclusion of activities that promote hands-on experiential learning.
- **Feasibility:** Consider the feasibility of the project given the budget, resources, research or educational environment, and project plan.
- **Budget:** Budget should be realistic in size and match the scope of the proposed project.
- **Leveraging existing resources and future pursuits:** Consider the PI's plan for leveraging existing programs, capacities, Texas Field Station Network, and/or Biodiversity Collections, as well as the potential for future support to implement programs in pursuit of similar outcomes.

POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS

Awardees will be required to submit an 18-month progress report as well as a final report upon completion of the project. Progress reports are due no later than 30 days after the end of the 18th month of the award. Final reports are due no later than 30 days after the end of the project period. Awardees may be asked to serve on a review committee for future Stengl-Wyer program competitions.

KEY DATES

Submission window opens: January 12, 2026

Submission deadline: March 2, 2026 at 5:00pm CT

Announcement of awardees: May 2026

Award start date: September 1, 2026

CONTACT INFORMATION

Program website: <https://cns.utexas.edu/faculty-staff/strategic-research-initiatives/funding-opportunities/stengl-wyer-grants>

Program questions should be directed to the Stengl-Wyer Endowment Program managers: swe@austin.utexas.edu

Application submission interface questions should be directed to CNS Strategic Research Initiatives: CNS_SRI@austin.utexas.edu

The form and timing of Stengl-Wyer Endowment Grant awards is subject to change in subsequent years. The content of this announcement is relevant only for the 2026 competition cycle.