

UC-HBCU Applicant Information Tutorial

This tutorial will present key information for those considering applying for a UC-HBCU Initiative faculty grant.

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Launched in 2011, the **UC-HBCU Initiative** is a faculty grants program that strengthens pathways to graduate education by funding research collaborations between the University of California (UC) and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

To learn more and for application materials please visit:

<http://www.ucop.edu/uc-hbcu-initiative/index.html>

The Initiative

Two types of awards –

1. Summer Research Internship Grant (one-year)
 2. Summer Research and Graduate Admissions Pathways Grant (three-years)
- Grants are competitively awarded to UC faculty members to host HBCU-enrolled student summer research interns and to facilitate faculty research collaborations and other educational activities that serve the goals of the initiative.
 - UC-HBCU Initiative summer research interns who are admitted to any UC Ph.D. program are eligible to receive a competitive funding package. All former UC-HBCU interns admitted to UC Ph.D. programs have received competitive funding packages (typically five years of support, depending on campus/department norms).

Eligibility:

Academic Senate Faculty members in any discipline at any of the ten campuses of the University of California are eligible to apply. Each grant may have only one Principal Investigator (PI). A PI may have numerous collaborators.

Review Criteria for Internship and Admissions Pathways Grants

Applicants for a one-year **Summer Research Internship Support Grant** will be evaluated on the first seven areas listed below and applicants for the **Summer Research and Graduate Admissions Pathways Grant** will be evaluated in all eight review areas.

- 1) Strength of UC **faculty commitment** to and involvement in the activities and goals of the project plan (level, type and frequency of involvement in project) and ability of PIs to successfully implement project plan
- 2) **Departmental support** of project and a history of contributions and efforts that strengthen inclusive academic environments and experiences for students
- 3) Evidence of **campus support** and/or pledged collaboration to help facilitate the project success (e.g., letters of support from graduate division deans or other campus representatives)
- 4) **Commitment to the project by HBCU faculty partners** (e.g., by formal endorsement or letters of support/partnership) is required.
- 5) Quality of **project plan** (approach, structure and quality of planned faculty mentoring of student interns during the summer), as well as provision of support faculty and other mentors for student interns.
- 6) **Follow up mentoring plan** for summer research interns
- 7) Indicators of building **long-term sustainability** between UC and identified HBCUs
- 8) Strength--and likelihood of effectiveness--of planned graduate admission pathways to **improve inclusion of HBCU scholars in UC Ph.D. programs**, as well as identified steps to institutionalize such efforts within a department to enhance long term success

Review Process

- The faculty grants are awarded by peer review. The review committee includes faculty both from UC campuses and HBCUs.
- The review criteria noted previously is comprehensive; they include all elements scored in the review process.

How to apply

Applications must be submitted via the electronic application system ProposalCentral. Submission instructions and templates are available online through ProposalCentral at: <http://proposalcentral.com/>

The screenshot displays the ProposalCentral website interface. At the top, a navigation bar includes the text "I AM A(N)" followed by four tabs: "APPLICANT OR AWARDEE" (selected), "PEER REVIEWER", "FUNDER", and "INSTITUTION". Each tab has a corresponding icon. The main content area is split into two sections. The left section, with a dark blue background, features the text "ProposalCentral for Applicants & Awardees." and a description of the platform's benefits. It also lists statistics: "\$28.5 Billion Funded Grants.", "280+ Funding Organizations.", and "1 Million Research Applications." The right section, with a white background, is titled "Applicant or Awardee" and prompts users to sign in. It includes a "LOGIN WITH ORCID" button, an "OR" separator, and a login form with fields for "USERNAME OR EMAIL" and a password (masked with dots). A red box highlights the login form, and a red arrow points to the "LOGIN" button. Below the login button are links for "Forgot your password?" and "Need an account?".

I AM A(N) **APPLICANT OR AWARDEE** PEER REVIEWER FUNDER INSTITUTION

ProposalCentral for Applicants & Awardees.

ProposalCentral enables researchers to tap into funding, get credit for their contributions, and realize the full potential of their scientific efforts.

\$28.5 Billion
Funded Grants.

280+
Funding Organizations.

1 Million
Research Applications.

Applicant or Awardee

Sign in to ProposalCentral to search for funding opportunities, submit grant applications, or manage your profile.

id LOGIN WITH ORCID ?

OR

USERNAME OR EMAIL

.....

LOGIN

[Forgot your password?](#) | [Need an account?](#)

2. Look for UC-HBCU Initiative on the Grant Maker List

1. Select the Grant Opportunities Tab

[Home](#)
[Proposals](#)
[Awards](#)
[Professional Profile](#)
[Institution Profile](#)
[Grant Opportunities](#)
[More Opportunities](#)

Total: 446 Opportunities

Filter by Grant Maker

Sign up for Other Funding Search

Deadlines displayed in U.S. Eastern Time

Click Apply Now to start your application (includes letter of intent if required)

Show 25 entries

Search: hbcu

| Grant Maker | Programs (Click for Guidelines) | LOI Deadline | Proposal Deadline | Contact Information | Apply | FAV |
|--|--|--------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------|-----|
| University of California - Historically Black Colleges and Universities Initiative | Small Research Grants | | 3/17/2025 3:00:00 PM | UC HBCU Initiatives Team | Apply Now | |
| University of California - Historically Black Colleges and Universities Initiative | Summer Research and Graduate Admissions Pathways Grant | | 3/17/2025 3:00:00 PM | UC HBCU Initiatives Team | Apply Now | |
| University of California - Historically Black Colleges and Universities Initiative | Summer Research Internship Support Grant | | 3/17/2025 3:00:00 PM | UC HBCU Initiatives Team | Apply Now | |
| Grant Maker | Programs (Click for Guidelines) | LOI Deadline | Proposal Deadline | Contact Information | Apply | FAQ |

3. Select "Apply Now"

4. Enter
required
information in
each section

Proposal Sections

Click name below to go to that section.

- 1 Title Page
- 2 Download Templates & Instructions
- 3 Enable Other Users to Access this Proposal
- 4 Faculty PI
- 5 Additional Information for Submission
- 6 Budget Summary
- 7 Project Summary
- 8 Signature Page(s)
- 9 Research Plan and Other Attachments
- 10 Validate
- 11 Submit



Proposal To:
Program:
Title (Applicant):
Deadline:

University of California - Historically Black Colleges and Universities Initiative
Summer Research and Graduate Admissions Pathways Grant
2024 Test Pathways Grant (Lim, Lizette)
3/17/2025 3:00:00 PM (U.S. Eastern Time)

Title Page

Next>> Save Print Cancel Exit

Enter a title for your application, then press Save.
Press Next to save any changes and go to the next proposal section. ?

* Project Title Enter a title here, then press Save.
Do not exceed 75 characters.

* Is this proposal a continuation of
or related to a previous UC-HBCU
Initiative grant?

No

* If yes, select the Prior Proposal? Select Prior Application

5. Validate and
submit your
proposal by
noon PT, March
16, 2026

UC-HBCU 2025-26 Timeline

Monday, March 16, 2026 — Proposals due by noon Pacific Time

July 2026 — Awards announced

December 1, 2026 — Summer intern participant names due to UC-HBCU Initiative

Summer 2027—Year 1 Summer Research Programs
Site visits by UC-HBCU Initiative leadership

Summer 2028 —Year 2 Summer Research Programs (Pathways grants)

Summer 2029 —Year 3 Summer Research Programs (Pathways grants)

Thinking about applying?

For the internship and pathways grants:

- Keep in mind that establishing a substantive relationship with HBCU colleagues is critical to forming a *mutually* beneficial and sustainable partnership. This idea must be evident in your proposal.
- Work in collaboration with your campus graduate division, undergraduate research centers and/or other central services units to make sure your project is taking advantage of the expertise and resources that exist to support the preparation of prospective graduate students. These units can offer support and programming for GRE preparation, workshops to prepare and expose students to transitioning to graduate school, assistance with housing coordination and connections to other summer scholars. Reach out to your local graduate division as you develop your proposal.

Why get involved?

To strengthen your program/department

- This is an opportunity to strengthen your graduate program and the experience of its scholars by actively cultivating cohorts of varied students who more aptly reflect society. Research indicates that diverse groups learn more and are more effective at problem solving.

To enhance your research

- The relationships UC faculty members build with their HBCU counterparts that often aid or complement their own research interests

To fund an interesting idea you have, one that can make a difference

- Design a project that is the best fit for your research interests and departmental needs. It may be an interesting idea that has been difficult to implement due to insufficient funding. This grant program can be a great tool for helping to create an inclusive intellectual environment in your program.

Why get involved?

To widen your network and expand your frame of reference

- Cultivate a richer relationship with academic colleagues, perhaps outside your typical sphere of interaction. Learn about different types of institutions.

To mentor outstanding HBCU students

- The initiative provides an opportunity for you as well as postdocs and graduate students who may be involved in your research to mentor outstanding students from HBCUs.

To have an impact on the academic pipeline

- The Initiative is successful at enrolling HBCU students. We would like to see even more students choosing UC. Having more students from all backgrounds in doctoral programs is critical to creating an academic pipeline that is reflective of the world.

Mentoring

- PIs participate in and facilitate sustained substantive multifaceted mentoring (SSMM)
- Excellent mentoring is key to meaningful learning experience, cultivating relationships that have long-term impacts on students' careers and lives
- PIs, faculty mentors, postdocs and graduate student mentors all contribute
- **Mentoring Before the Summer:** Mentoring should begin once the student intern is selected, before the program begins. Early engagement helps students feel more prepared and comfortable as they start their research at UC
- **Mentoring During the Summer:** PI/mentor should meet regularly with the student during the summer program to guide the student's work, monitor the student's transition and navigate the academic culture
- **Mentoring After the Summer:** Following the program, regular contact with interns is expected and is critical to building on the relationships established over the summer. The PI is expected to maintain follow-up contact after the program ends to advise interns as they consider or prepare to apply for graduate school and to support their continued development as a scholar. PIs/mentors commonly work with students as they submit papers and posters to conferences. Continued mentorship also proves very valuable for faculty and programs to successfully enroll these students at UC.

UC-HBCU Initiative Highlights

- Because of UC and HBCU faculty partnerships, UC has hosted **1,112 UC-HBCU summer interns across ten campuses** since summer 2012.
- UC has **75 Ph.D. fellows** enrolled as a direct result of the UC-HBCU Initiative; 61 percent in STEM fields and 39 percent in Social Sciences and Humanities. **54 Ph.D. students have graduated.**
- UC-HBCU partnerships involve **well-known HBCUs** such as Howard, Morehouse and Spelman, as well as **lesser-known institutions** such as Claflin, Tougaloo and University of the Virgin Islands.
- The **yield (enrollment) rate for UC-HBCU alumni is 83 percent**, compared with 42 percent for academic doctoral applicants generally.
- To enroll former UC-HBCU interns into UC Ph.D. programs, UCOP has allocated **permanent resources to provide cost-share fellowships** in partnership with campuses.

Contact information

For more information, including the RFP, see the **UC-HBCU Initiative website**: <https://www.ucop.edu/uc-hbcu-initiative/>

Application instructions and template and form examples are available at: <http://www.ucop.edu/uc-hbcu-initiative/faculty-grants/application-instructions-and-templates/index.html>

Frequently Asked Questions: http://www.ucop.edu/uc-hbcu-initiative/_files/faq.pdf

Email: gradstudies@ucop.edu

Call: 510-987-0697

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Thank you for your interest in the UC-HBCU Initiative!