Faculty/Graduate Student Collaborative Research Grants will help support joint research and co-authorship between faculty and doctoral students. Each grant will provide up to $5,000 of support for data collection, travel for research purposes and conferences, summer support for the student (limited to $3,000 and subject to the rules below and any other affecting summer pay), or other valid research expenses (not including computers). It is expected that the funds will be used during the calendar year, not carried forward into the following year. Students who receive summer support through this award should not be supported with other College or Department awards (beyond the regular summer stipend that is part of the standard support package) or teaching in the College during the summer.

Who may apply and other terms: Tenured and tenure-track faculty members and Ph.D. student collaborators who have passed their micro and macro prelims are eligible to apply. Proposals should be jointly developed and submitted by the faculty and student team members. Students are welcome to initiate conversations with faculty about joint projects, but of course there is no obligation for faculty to participate (or vice versa). Collaborative teams may include more than one faculty member or more than one student, but the maximum award is still $5,000. Students may receive this award no more than twice during their career at Vanderbilt.


Submission details:
1) Each “team” will submit a project proposal, not to exceed five pages in length. Like short versions of NSF “project descriptions,” the application should describe the motivation for the work, the central and specific research questions, the methods and data (if any) to be used, and the roles of the respective team members. It will be helpful to describe how the research will complement the student’s independent dissertation research. The collaborative activity should not delay the student’s progress on independent work. As with other grant competitions, proposals that show some evidence of groundwork and feasibility may have an advantage over more speculative, less developed proposals.
2) On a separate page, please attach a budget with estimates and descriptions of how funds would be used. Note that $5,000 is the maximum award; you may request less.
3) A bibliography of one additional page may be attached.

Requirements: At the end of the grant year (December), a progress report or (even better) a draft of the co-authored paper should be submitted to Kathleen Finn, Calhoun 415. Collaborators are encouraged to present their work at a Departmental seminar as well as other professional venues.

Proposal evaluation procedure: The Committee on Graduate Studies will review proposals and notify grant recipients as soon as possible after the deadline for submission. The Committee may take into account the student’s performance in course work and progress on the dissertation.

Residency and Travel: Grant recipients are not required to be in residence during the summer but are expected to be in regular contact with their faculty collaborators. Note that any travel undertaken to advance the project (e.g., to present at conferences or collect data) is subject to Vanderbilt’s rules and processes for reimbursement. Please discuss any such travel plans with Margaret Fergus and Kenneth Brown.