



The University of Texas at San Antonio
Tenure-Track Research Award Competition
(TRAC AWARDS)



“Guidelines”

FY 2009-2010



The Office of the Vice President for Research

Main Building Room MB 2.106

San Antonio, Texas 78249



Tenure-Track Research Awards Competition (TRAC) FY 2009/2010

Purpose:

The TRAC Awards Program* is part of UTSA's coordinated efforts to promote research and scholarship of the highest quality. The Office of the Vice President for Research is providing up to \$110,000 for grants to start new and innovative research programs for full time, tenure-track, junior faculty (assistant professors).

Junior faculty competing for these awards may have associate and full professors on their team but the junior faculty member must be the PI.

Individuals or teams awarded TRAC funding cannot also receive collaborative research seed grant program (CRSGP) funding.

Strategic Plan:

The below five areas of collaborative excellence represent areas in which the University is further developing expertise and activities. While not restricting academic endeavors in unrelated areas, they provide focus for interdisciplinary research and educational opportunities and expanded strategic alliances with external partners, both public and private.

- **Health:** The biomedical knowledge, technology, human resources, education, and policies needed for the maintenance and improvement of health, including fighting disease and the adverse effects of aging, are of critical importance in our global society.
- **Security:** A pervasive concern for security that has broad implications in today's rapidly changing world demands the knowledge, technology, resources, and policies necessary to ensure a safe environment for individuals, communities, and businesses.
- **Energy and Environment:** The challenges of ensuring the future availability of energy resources and a clean environment on a global basis while nurturing productivity require technologies, policies, and education.

* The TRAC Awards Program replaces the previous Faculty Research Awards (FRA).

- **Human and Social Development:** Holistic exploration of human and social development through education, economic and policy development, technology, the arts and humanities, and the sciences fosters discoveries that nourish both individuals and society.
- **Sustainability:** While facing the demands of our rapidly changing world, we must address issues of sustainability the importance of preserving our resources, infrastructure, and heritage for future generations, while ensuring their present availability for all people.

Award Process:

Proposals in one of the above areas or in a combination of the above areas will be submitted by the PI to the Office of the Senior Associate Vice-President for Research Development (MS 4.03.60) NLT 5:00 pm, 1 October 2008. The Tenure-Track Research Award Committee (TRAC) will then rank the merit of each proposal according to the scoring criteria listed below. Five awards for \$22,000 each are anticipated. Funding will be used exclusively for research activities and not for administrative salaries. Funding from this program must be expended within the fiscal year it is awarded. Any remaining funds will be returned.

Tenured-Track Research Award Committee:

The TRAC Awards Committee will be comprised of representatives from each university college. The committee will make recommendations to the Vice President for Research (VPR) who will make the final funding decisions.

Application Process:

Applications and instructions are available to download in July 2008 at:
<http://vpr.utsa.edu/index.php>

Hardcopy completed applications (8 cy) plus the original must be received by the Office of the Senior Associate Vice President for Research Development (Main Campus, MS Building 4.03.55) no later than 5:00 P.M. on 1 October, 2008. Funding decisions will be announced during the fall semester, NLT 1 November. The completed application package will include the application form, a separate budget, a maximum five page narrative (excluding citations, see attachment 1 for administrative details), and the PI's CV.

Criteria:

1. Quality and coherence of proposal
2. Potential as a scholarly or artistic contribution

3. Contribution to the professional development of the investigator
4. Suitability for publication, exhibition, performance, or subsequent funding as appropriate within a respective discipline
5. Clarity of the proposal for a non-specialized audience

Scoring:

Each criterion will be scored on a basis from 0-20 by each voting member of the TRAC Awards Committee. Maximum score is 100 points.

Program Schedule:

1 October 2008, 5 pm, application/proposals are due to the Office of the Senior Associate VP for Research Development (MS 4.03.55)

2 October – 31 October 08, TRAC awards committee review process

1 November 08, TRAC awards announced

November 08, funding is released to lead PIs department

31 August 09, grant is terminated

30 September 09, final report is due (30 days after award termination) to the VPR's office

Grantee's Responsibilities:

See attachment 1 for rules and administrative details.

8 copies plus an original required at turn in.

A CV is required from the PI, (NIH format is fine).

The grantee must follow all applicable UTSA regulations and policies regarding the conduct of research to include department account rules and requirements.

A separate state account (14 account) will be set up in the PI's department and the grantee must follow all applicable 14 account rules and regulations.

PI's department will manage the new account.

No project may be started until relevant compliance regulations have been met regarding person or animal test subjects (if applicable).

The VPR will schedule two (2) program reviews during the life of the grant to get a project update and financial expenditures report.

A final report detailing the research conducted under these grants must be submitted to the Office of the Vice President for Research within 30 days of award completion.

Any questions regarding this grant may be directed to Vice President for Research contact: Mr. Jim Massaro, phone, 210-458-6691, E-mail Jim.Massaro@utsa.edu.

Attachment 1
Rules and Administrative Details:

The emphasis of these grants is on research and quality.

All indirect costs are waived.

Proposal routing should follow standard UTSA routing except for one exception: faculty member to Dean then the complete package to AVPR or if through a Center/Institute Director to Dean then the complete package to AVPR. OSP coordination is Not required.

No administrative or non-research costs may be paid from this grant.

Narrative will be single spaced

12 point font

Times New Roman

1" margins

The Narrative is to be no more than 5 pages in length (disqualifying if longer and excludes citations); and written in layman's terms (see criteria #5).

PIs may have outside reviewers look over the proposal.

No limit on collaborators

Monies can be shared: supplies, travel (ex., conferences) etc.

No cost extensions will not be given.

Awardees funding will be transferred to his/her department for management.

Any money not used by the end of the fiscal year (31 Aug 09) will be returned to the VPR's office.

Individuals who receive funding from this grant are not eligible to receive CRS GP funding as well.

Awardees may not apply for this grant two years in a row.