



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



**“Guidelines”**

**FY 2010-2011**



**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 2010/2011**

### **Purpose:**

The TRAC Awards Program is part of UTSA's coordinated efforts to promote research and scholarship of the highest quality. It is to stimulate junior faculty to perform research in their area of interest. The Office of the Vice President for Research is providing up to \$132,000 (contingent on state funding) 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. In addition, individuals who received TRAC or CRSGP funding in FY 2009-2010 are not eligible for this competition but are again eligible for either competition in FY2012-2013.

**NOTE:** PIs cannot put in for both the TRAC and CRSGP awards in the same year. The PI on one award however can be involved in the other award but not as a PI or Co-PI.

### **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. TRAC proposals however, must address one or a combination of the below areas.

- **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.
- **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 Assistant Vice-President for Research Development (MS 4.03.55) NLT 5:00 pm, 16 March 2009. The Tenure-Track Research Award Committee (TRAC) will then rank the merit of each proposal according to the scoring criteria listed below. Six awards for \$22,000 each are anticipated (contingent on state funding). Funding will be used exclusively for research activities and not for administrative salaries. Funding from this program must be expended by 31 August 2010. or returned. Researchers can expect funding September 2009.

### **Tenure-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 then make all final funding decisions.

### **Application Process:**

Applications and instructions are available to download in February 2009 at:  
<http://vpr.utsa.edu/>

Hardcopy completed applications (8 cy) plus the original must be received by the Office of the Assistant Vice President for Research Development (Main Campus, MS Building 4.03.55) no later than 5:00 P.M. on 16 March, 2009. Funding decisions will be announced during the spring semester, NLT 11 May. 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:**

16 March 2009, 5 pm, application/proposals are due to the Assistant VP for Research Development (MS 4.03.55)

23 March – 13 April 09, TRAC awards committee review process

11 May 09, TRAC awards announced

1 September 09, funding is released to lead PIs department

31 August 10, grant is terminated

30 September 10, final report is due (30 days after award termination) to the Assistant VP for Research Development'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](mailto:Jim.Massaro@utsa.edu).

**Note: Submitters should realize depending on committee workload there may not be feedback comments.**

**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: faculty member to Dean to OSP or if through a Center or Institute, faculty member to Institute/Center Director to Dean to OSP.

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 31 Aug 10 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.