



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

College of Media & Communication™

**Formby Mayes Student Research Endowment
Bill and Avis Ross Graduate Research Award for Mass Communication
Graduate Student Research Funding**

Uniform Call for Applications

The Center for Communication Research in partnership with the Office of Graduate Studies is now accepting applications for research funding from students in the College of Media & Communication.

- The **Formby Mayes Student Research Endowment** is intended to provide **both undergraduate and graduate students** in CoMC with the resources to conduct more ambitious and robust research that furthers our understanding of media and communication phenomena.
- The **Bill and Avis Ross Graduate Student Research Award for Mass Communication** is intended to assist **CoMC master’s or doctoral students complete their thesis or dissertation.**
- The **CoMC Graduate Student Research Funding** award is intended to provide **CoMC graduate students** with the resources to conduct more ambitious and robust research that furthers our understanding of media and communication phenomena.

This is biannual call distributed at the start of the fall and spring academic terms, pending available funds. Application deadlines for the 2020-2021 academic year are as follows:

Fall 2020		Spring 2021	
Sept. 18	Application Due	Jan. 29	Application Due
Sept. 25	Oral Presentation of Project Proposal	Feb. 5	Oral Presentation of Project Proposal
Sept. 30	Notice of Awards	Feb. 10	Notice of Awards

Funds **can** be used to pay for:

- Participant incentives
- Hardware acquisition
- Actual project materials and supplies
- Stimulus material creation
- Travel expenses to collect data
- Material reproduction
- Recording and transcribing

Funds **cannot** be used to pay for:

- Researcher stipend or salary
- Conference travel
- Personal reimbursements
- Expenses not approved by university

Applications for **graduate student funding** must include:

1. A 750- to 1,000-word proposal that explains the importance of the project, includes a very brief literature review, methodology, a justification of need, and project timeline. If funds call for payments to human subjects and/or panels of research participants, please include brief justification for sample size and source of cost estimates. In addition, proposals must include a budget that details how the student will use the award, anticipated outcomes, publication plans, and opportunities for pursuit of external funds to support the research.
2. An up-to-date CV.
3. A letter of support from the thesis or dissertation chair or supervisor, or CoMC graduate faculty member who has reviewed the proposal and can attest to its merit. *Note that in cases where funding will be used as part of a student-faculty collaboration, the proposal and faculty support letter should detail how the funding will benefit the student applicant and confirm that the faculty member has contributed start-up funding or applied to a funding source to help co-fund the project. Student-faculty collaborations where the faculty member does **not** contribute funding will not be considered.*

Applications for **undergraduate student funding** (i.e., Formby Mayes Student Research Awards) should include:

1. A 750 - 1,000-word proposal that explains the importance of the project, includes a brief literature review, methodology, a justification of need, and project timeline. In addition, proposals should include a budget* that details how the student will use the award, anticipated outcomes, and possible publication plans.
2. An up-to-date resume or CV.
3. A letter of support from a CoMC faculty member who has reviewed the proposal and can attest to its merit and provides a plan for active mentorship of the project.

* Projects requesting funds for an online panel of research participants should include a *supplemental* appendix including a source of this estimate. This does not count toward the 750 – 1,000 word limit.

Oral Presentation of Project Proposal

In addition to the above written proposal, students will be required to orally present their project proposal to a panel of faculty researchers in the College of Media & Communication. Oral presentations should generally follow the same structure as the written proposal.

Oral presentations must be limited to no more than 10 minutes. Student researchers may use whatever visual aids are helpful, but please arrange to test any A/V technology in advance.

Additional Guidelines:

1. Any hardware acquired through awarded funding will remain property of TTU.
2. Applicants must be currently enrolled in a graduate or undergraduate degree program within the College of Media & Communication at the time of application and during the period when funds are released.
3. Applicants must be in good academic standing.

4. For graduate students, funding should result in a publishable paper of which the applicant is either sole or first author.
5. Funded graduate students will be required to present the outcome of their project (or tentative results) at a college brown bag at a future date after data has been collected.
6. Any publications or public presentation of study findings must explicitly acknowledge the source of funding as appropriate.
 - a. "Project funding provided by the Clint Formby and Wendell Mayes, Jr. Student Research Endowment in the College of Media & Communication at Texas Tech University."
 - b. "Project funding provided by the Bill and Avis Ross Graduate Research Award in the College of Media & Communication at Texas Tech University."
 - c. "Project financial support provided by the Texas Tech University College of Media & Communication Graduate Student Research Funding."
7. Funded undergraduate students will be required to submit their projects to the annual TTU Undergraduate Research Conference (<https://www.depts.ttu.edu/true/ConferenceHome/>). Projects funded for the spring semester may be submitted as research-in-progress.
8. The funds cannot be used for previous/past expenses, and TTU procurement policies must be followed to use the funds. Recipients must work with COMC staff to ensure strict compliance with college and university O.P., particularly with respect to reimbursement of previous expenses.
9. Awards must be spent within the current fiscal year. Requests for extension of these funds may be made in advance of Aug. 1 jointly to the Associate Dean for Research and Grants and Associate Dean for Graduate Studies.

Applications should be submitted via email as Word documents or PDFs to Dr. Glenn Cummins, associate dean for research and grants, to glenn.cummins@ttu.edu. ***Applications that are incomplete or fail to follow the guidelines stated in this call will not be reviewed.***