



PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM PRE-PROPOSAL APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

General Grant

New Investigator Grant

[Athletic Training Education and Practice Grant](#)

[Thematic Research Grant](#)

Introduction

All investigators applying to the NATA Foundation Professional Research Grant Program must first submit a pre-proposal for review. Applicants to the NATA Foundation's Doctoral and Master's Student Grant Programs are exempt from this requirement.

The pre-proposal process is intended to streamline the application and review process by allowing the NATA Foundation Research Committee to assess the potential merit, relevance, and feasibility of proposed projects before applicants invest significant effort in preparing a full proposal.

Based on the pre-proposal review, applicants will either:

- Be invited to submit a full proposal; or
- Be notified that their application was not selected to advance to the full proposal stage.

An invitation to submit a full proposal does not imply a commitment to funding. Rather, it indicates that the proposed project aligns with the Foundation's priorities and demonstrates sufficient scientific merit to warrant further consideration.

A maximum of four applicants per grant category will be invited to submit a full proposal.

Eligibility

General, [ATEP](#), and [Thematic Research Grants](#)

Researchers, educators, and healthcare professionals are eligible to apply. However, either the Principal Investigator (PI) or Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) must:

- Be BOC-certified
- Be a current NATA member in good standing
- Hold an active National Provider Identifier (NPI)

New Investigator Grant

The Principal Investigator must:

- Be a current NATA member in good standing
- Be BOC-certified
- Hold an active National Provider Identifier (NPI)
- Have never served as PI or Co-PI on a research grant exceeding \$50,000 in total costs
- Hold an academic rank no higher than Assistant Professor at the time of submission or resubmission

Applicants with questions regarding eligibility should contact the Research Committee Chair before submitting an application.

Resubmissions

Applicants submitting a revised proposal are not required to submit a pre-proposal. However, the Principal Investigator (PI) must notify the Research Committee Chair in writing of their intent to resubmit by October 1.

Pre-Proposal Submission Process

Submission Window

- Application Opens: August 1
- Application Deadline: September 1

All pre-proposals must be submitted electronically through the [NATA Application Manager](#).

Current NATA members should log in using their nata.org credentials. Applicants who do not have nata.org login credentials should follow the instructions provided on the Application Manager landing page.

Applicants are encouraged to access the system early to familiarize themselves with submission requirements and upload procedures.

Pre-Proposal Format

The pre-proposal should be prepared as a Specific Aims Page and provide a concise overview of the proposed project.

Pre-proposals should include:

- Relevant background and rationale
- Overall project objective
- Specific aim(s) and associated hypotheses, when applicable
- General approach to achieving each aim
- Potential impact on the athletic training profession
- Alignment with the [NATA Foundation Research Priorities](#) and the [Athletic Training Research Agenda](#)

A strong Specific Aims Page should clearly articulate:

- The problem being addressed
- The current gap in knowledge
- Why the proposed project is needed
- How the project will address the identified gap

- The significance and potential impact of the work
- The long-term goal of the investigator(s)

Whenever possible, aims should be complementary but not dependent upon one another. Hypotheses should be included when appropriate to the study design.

Formatting Requirements

- Maximum length: 1 page (excluding references)
- Margins: minimum 0.5 inches
- Font size: 11 point or larger
- References must be cited within the Specific Aims Page and included on a separate page
- Submission format: single PDF document

Pre-proposals that do not comply with these formatting requirements may be returned without review.

Review and Full Proposal Invitation Process

Each pre-proposal is reviewed by at least two members of the NATA Foundation Research Committee.

Applications are evaluated based on:

- The appropriateness and feasibility of the proposed approach
- Alignment with the NATA Foundation Research Priorities
- Relevance to the Athletic Training Research Agenda
- Potential significance and impact of the proposed work

Following review, a maximum of four applicants per grant category will be invited to submit a full proposal.

Applicants invited to the full proposal stage must submit their application by the February 15 deadline. Requests for extensions may be considered under exceptional circumstances.

Applicants who do not submit a full proposal during the same funding cycle must submit a new pre-proposal for future consideration.

Funding decisions are made only after:

- Comprehensive review of the full proposal by the Research Committee; and
- Approval by the NATA Foundation Board of Directors.

Due to the volume of submissions received, applicants whose pre-proposals are not selected for advancement will receive a brief notification. Detailed reviewer feedback is not provided at the pre-proposal stage.

If you have questions, please contact:

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Research Committee Chair
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