



# PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM PRE-PROPOSAL APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

General Grants

New Investigator Grants

Specialized RFPs



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### Introduction

The NATA Foundation requires investigators interested in submitting a grant application to the NATA Foundation Professional Research Grant Program to first submit a “pre-proposal.” Please note that applicants to the NATA Foundation’s Student Grant Program do not need to submit a pre-proposal.

The purpose of the pre-proposal is to optimize the time invested by investigators and the NATA Foundation Research Committee in writing and reviewing grant proposals, respectively. The pre-proposal allows the Research Committee to evaluate whether or not the proposed research project is a potential candidate for funding. Based on this evaluation, the committee either extends an invitation for the submission of a full proposal or indicates that the proposed project is not of interest. An invitation to submit a full proposal does not imply a commitment to funding. It does, however, indicate that the general approach to be taken to achieve the aim(s) is appropriate to achieve the project’s objective(s) and a level of enthusiasm for the proposed research in an area of potential importance to the NATA Foundation so as to warrant a full application.

### Eligibility Requirements

Any health care professional, researcher, or educator may apply for a research grant. However, either the Primary Investigator, or Co-Primary Investigator must be a BOC certified athletic trainer, a member of the NATA, and hold an NPI number. The grant applicant must be the individual whose research project is to be supported by the requested funding.

**If you have questions, please contact Kathryn LaLonde MS, ATC, NATA Foundation Programs and Projects Coordinator [kathrynl@nata.org](mailto:kathrynl@nata.org).**

### Pre-proposal Submission Process and Deadline:

Pre-Proposal Applications open August 1 and close September 1 each year. All pre-proposal applications are submitted electronically via the [NATA Application Manager website](#). If you are a NATA member, you will use your nata.org login credentials for access to the site. Log in to this site early in the pre-proposal preparation process to familiarize yourself with the format of the required submissions. If you do not have nata.org login credentials follow the instructions on the website landing page.

### Pre-proposal Format:

Pre-proposals should take the form of a standard specific aims page. Investigators should include: include: 1) relevant background information, 2) the overall project objective, 3) the specific aim(s) accompanied by hypotheses, if applicable, 4) the general approach to be taken to achieve the aim(s), 5) the project’s potential impact on the athletic training profession, and 6) how the project aligns with the [NATA Foundation Research Priorities](#) and the [Athletic Training Research Agenda](#).

A well-written specific aims page should provide an overview of the entire project, and clearly establish an athletic training-related problem, the gap in the knowledge needed to address the problem, and why this project will fill this critical gap. It should explain the overall significance of the project as well as the long-term goal of the application or investigator(s). Ideally, the aims should be related, but not dependent, upon each other. Hypotheses should be included whenever possible, though it is recognized that not all aims will require hypotheses.

Pre-proposals are limited to 1 page with no less than 1/2 inch margins and must be written in font  $\geq 11$ . References to others' ideas or previous research are required to be cited in the specific aims page and these references included on a separate page. Completed pre-proposals should be uploaded as a single document in PDF format only. Pre-proposals that do not adhere to these formatting guidelines will be rejected without review.

**Review and Full Proposal Invitation Process:**

Pre-proposals are evaluated by no less than two members of the NATA Foundation Research Committee. Pre-proposals are evaluated on: 1) the appropriateness of the general approach for achieving the specific aims; and 2) the project's alignment with the NATA Foundation Research Priorities and the Athletic Training Research Agenda.

After a pre-proposal is accepted, the author is invited to submit a full proposal by the February 15 application deadline. Requests to extend this timeline may be considered under special circumstances. Failure to submit a full proposal in the same grant cycle will require that a new pre-proposal be submitted. Any commitment to funding may occur only after a detailed review of the full proposal by the Research Committee and formal approval of the project by the NATA Foundation Board of Directors. If the proposed project is not of interest to the NATA Foundation, the committee will provide a brief notice indicating the general category of reason(s). Due to the large volume of pre-proposals submitted, detailed feedback will not be provided.