



PAEA RESEARCH

Support to Advance Research (STAR) Program

The Support to Advance Research (STAR) Program is adapted from the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine's **CAFME Educational Research Alliance Program**. The STAR program allows PA faculty researchers to submit no more than 10 survey questions to be included in the **PAEA Program Survey**.

The overall goals of the PAEA Faculty-Generated Research Grants Program are to:

- Increase the quality and frequency of research and scholarly activity among faculty of PAEA member institutions
- Improve the process for surveying constituents with better questions and fewer surveys
- Provide a clearinghouse of data that faculty of PAEA member institutions can use to produce scholarly work

ELIGIBILITY

The principal investigator (PI) must be a faculty member at an accredited PAEA member or institutional colleague program in good standing and be employed by the educational institution for a minimum of 20 hours per week for the duration of the project. A letter from the program director or dean attesting to the PI's relationship with the PA program is required. No member serving on a committee/workgroup having oversight for this program may submit proposals; members serving on committees/workgroups without oversight responsibilities are welcome to submit proposals.

This project must be research-oriented. A research question or hypothesis should be the focus of the study. The results of the study must have some application to the PA education or workforce issues. Priority will be given to proposals that are aligned with PAEA research priorities and likely to yield a high quality, peer-reviewed publication.

All submitted projects involving surveying human subjects must have Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval or evidence of exemption. Evidence of IRB submission plans must be included in the proposal at the time of the initial submission. A proposal is accepted under the condition that IRB approval or evidence is received by the agreed upon timeline.

A proposal is accepted under the condition that the PI makes changes to the questions as requested by the reviewers and the PAEA Research Team (if required).



The PI must sign the PAEA research agreement and complete the research project within 18 months of receiving the data. The principal investigator is to submit a final project report (through the PAEA Research Team) to the PAEA Research Mission Advancement Commission (RMAC) within 90 days of the end of the study. This may take the form of a published manuscript or presentation. The project will be deemed complete when the final report has been approved by PAEA.

APPLICATION

Before submitting, **please carefully review the formatting guidelines and required materials detailed below**. Applications that are not formatted correctly or that are missing required elements may be delayed or not considered.

Priority will be given to proposals that:

- Are aligned with the priorities outlined in the [PAEA Strategic Plan](#)
- Are likely to yield high-quality, peer-reviewed scholarly work
- Receive high scores on the evaluation criteria

Proposals must be correctly formatted and **blinded**, **may not exceed 3 pages** (see the note below for exceptions to the page count), and must include all of the sections outlined below, which should be clearly labeled.

Proposal Formatting and Required Elements

General

1. Completed proposal **cover sheet** ([download here](#)).
2. **Problem statement and/or research question(s)**
3. **Background** and brief review of literature on the topic, including what new knowledge will be generated, as well as significance of research questions
4. **Objectives, aims, and hypotheses** of the proposed research question
5. **Proposed survey questions** (maximum of 10; this includes all branching questions) including details regarding specific statistical tests and how they address the research question
6. **Analysis plans**
7. **Dissemination plans**
8. **Additional requested data from the 2019 Program Survey** with justification for the request. Data must be directly related to the proposal's research question and may not identify programs.



Appendices

9. **Letter from Program Director or Dean** attesting to the PI's relationship to the PA program and confirmation that the PI is assigned at least half time to the PA program
10. **Bibliography/reference list** (maximum of five)
11. Blinded **curriculum vitae** of all affiliated investigators
12. **Proof of IRB** approval or exemption, including submitted protocol

Note: Items 1 and 9-12 are not included in the page count.

All decisions of the selection committee are final. If confirmation of receipt of submission is not given within two business days, please call 703-667-4328. Any questions should be directed to research@PAEAonline.org.

Proposal Formatting

All proposals must adhere to the formatting requirements below:

- Paginated
- One-inch margins
- Left-justified
- Size 12, Times New Roman font

Cover sheets, curriculum vitae, references, IRB documents, and letter of support are exempt from this formatting.

Blinding Requirements

All application materials, excluding the cover sheet, letter from your program director, and proof of IRB approval/exemption, **must be fully blinded** (i.e., no identifying information may be included). Identifying information includes mentions of participating institutions in the proposal as well as the following information commonly found in a curriculum vitae:

- Letterhead or watermarks from the researcher's institution
- Researcher's name and contact information
- Institutions from which researcher received degrees
- Institutions where researcher has been employed
- Membership in and presentations given at regional conferences or organizations (e.g., Texas Association of PAs)
- Researcher's name in publications and awarded grants
- Geographically or institutionally identifying information in publication titles (e.g., "Health outcomes among a sample of women in Philadelphia")



Blinded CVs must be named using the convention “CV_PI,” “CV_CoPI1,” “CV_CoPI2,” “CV_CoI1,” “CV_CoI2,” etc. **Unblinded applications will not be reviewed.**

Overlaying a shape and/or changing the font or background of identifying text is not sufficient. This [guide](#) contains useful information on how to appropriately blind your applications materials. You may also email research@PAEAonline.org with questions.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Reviewers will consider each of the criteria below in the determination of scientific merit and give a separate score for each.

- The research question is clearly articulated, detailed, and testable
- The research question is aligned with the PAEA Strategic Plan
- The project addresses a novel research question that is of critical importance to PA education or the PA profession
- The background information was appropriately researched and referenced
- The background information demonstrates the significance of the research question
- The submitted survey questions are likely to yield high quality, meaningful data
- The analytic plan is outlined effectively and in detail
- The proposed analyses appropriately and rigorously address the research question(s)
- The project can be realistically completed, including deliverables, within 18 months of receiving the data
- The proposal is likely to result in a peer-reviewed publication or presentation to the scientific community