Applying for the 2019 PAEA Don Pedersen Research Grant

Grant Deadline: October 30, 2019
4:59 p.m. ET
Applying for the 2019 Don Pedersen Research Grant – Your Hosts:

Eleadah Clack, MA  
Project Manager,  
Research Programs and Evaluations

Rick Dehn, MPA, PA-C,  
Chair  
Research Mission Advancement Commission  

Elana Min, PhD, PA-C  
2009 Winner

Sheena Brown, PhD, MSCR  
2016 Winner

Trent Honda  
PhD, MMS, PA-C  
Chair  
Grants & Scholarship Review Committee
Mission: To give early-career PA faculty, who are qualified to carry out the research as a principal investigator (PI), an entryway into research.

Objectives: PAEA seeks to create leaders in PA education/workforce research who will further the PA profession through research and publication.
Choosing a Research Question

• Ask a question of specific interest to the PA community or one that is generalizable.

• Address a novel research question of critical importance to PA education or the PA profession.

• If the question has been previously investigated, explain how your research will address gaps in the current research.

• Pose the question in the context of prior literature on the topic.
  Avoid repeating a previously researched question without identifying how the additional research is warranted.

• If no prior studies exist in PA education, consider other health professions literature.

To What Extent Do Physician Assistants Provide Chronic Disease Care?
Bettie Coplan MPAS, PA-C, Northern Arizona University 2012 Winner

The Use of Simulation in Physician Assistant Programs: A National Survey
Donald Coerver PhD, PA-C, MEDEX Northwest 2013 Winner
Relevant Research Topics

- PA education and PA workforce issues
- Topics should answer new questions or address knowledge gaps exposed by previous research
- Topics should be at least of regional interest with preference for topics of national interest.
- The program is not intended to fund research on clinical practice.

2019 Preference for topics that explore:
* Increasing capacity in clinical education
* Attracting and retaining diverse students and faculty
Preference given to PA faculty who have not received PAEA research grant awards, paired with senior researcher co-investigators
Relevant Research Topics: Research Methods

• Data methods should provide the appropriate data to answer the research question.
• Create a clear analytic plan that is appropriate for the collected data.
• Discussion of bias – the Methods section should explicitly identify sources of bias and address how potential bias will be treated in the analysis.

Pro Tip
• Use caution analyzing multiple years of test data that aren’t standardized.
• Use caution with single program studies.
Past Winner: Elana Min, PhD, PA-C
Northwestern University

Utilizing Standardized Patient Exams to Measure the Effectiveness of PA Student Training in Challenging Patient Encounters

- Identified a gap (at that time) in curriculum and a novel use of standardized patients
- Created a feasible timeline that worked with our students
- Secured familiar and reliable resources
Past Winner:
Sheena Brown, PhD, MSCR
Mercer University

Diversity Within Physician Assistant Education: Assessing Perceptions of Promotion and Tenure Opportunities Among Underrepresented Minority Physician Assistant Faculty
Intro to Grantee Outcomes and Expectations

• Submit a final project report to the PAEA Grants and Scholarship Review Committee within 90 days of the end of the study.

• Be able to complete the research project within 18 months of receiving the award.

• Submit the research findings for presentation at the PAEA Education Forum within one year from the conclusion of the project.

• Complete follow-up surveys and participate in feedback tools from the PAEA Research Team as needed.
Submission Guidelines

• The research proposal must be six pages in length.

• Blinding requirements: The cover page and evidence of IRB submission do not need to be blinded.

• Must have proof of Institutional Review Board (IRB) submission, approval, or exemption and
  • Include copy of survey instrument

• PI (primary investigator) must be in good standing at accredited PAEA member program.

• PI must be employed by program for minimum of 20 hours per week (> 0.5 FTE).

Proposals not submitted according to the guidelines will be disqualified
Submission Guidelines: General Considerations

• Must be received electronically no later than 4:59 p.m. ET, Wednesday, October 30, 2019.

• Make sure you’ve addressed all submission requirements.
  • Don’t forget your timeline
  • Or your budget

• Identify potential weaknesses or limitations to the project and discuss how they will be overcome.

• Secure letters of recommendation early.

• Request specific feedback from RMAC committee members by emailing research@PAEAonline.org.
A Good Budget Tells a Story

• Develop a plan for completing the research project

• Create a budget by sections:
  • Time: consultants, research participants (report any in-kind)
  • People: faculty personnel, staff support (report any in-kind)
  • Supplies: markers, printing, materials, etc.
  • Misc: software, travel, fees, data access, etc.

• Prioritize an accurate estimate by researching the cost.
  • Time x Cost
  • Quantities x Cost

• Be detailed in describing why you need each budget line item and how it will be used in your research.

• Pro Tip: Commit some grant budget for statistical consulting.

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Before You Submit: A Checklist

- Relevant question
- Blinding requirements
  - IRB (unblinded) and survey tool, as applicable
  - Cover page (unblinded)
  - Two copies of proposal, CV
- Budget
- Literature review and references that put your question in context
- Past funding history and collaboration efforts
- Clear research methods that are appropriate for research question
- Expected outcomes: timeline, dissemination plans, impact on PA field
- Page limits (6)
- Letters of support (3)
- October 30, 4:59 p.m. ET deadline
Evaluation Criteria: Research Outcomes & Budget

• Are the investigators well-qualified to carry out the research as proposed?
  • Consider interdisciplinary or inter-institutional collaborations to increase the expertise on a research team, if necessary.

• Can the project be realistically completed in 1.5 years?
  • Provide a timeline detailing deliverables and thoughtfulness about dissemination

• Are the budget and budget justification consistent with the methods? Does it include non-allowable costs?
Pitfalls and Common Problems

• The most common problems start with the research question:
  • Repeating previously researched question without identifying how the additional research is warranted.
  • Asking a question of limited interest to the PA community or one that is not generalizable.
  • Asking a question that can’t be answered by the data.

• And subsequent methods:
  • Poorly described
  • Will likely produce biased results
  • Unlikely to result in data that would answer the research question(s)
  • Methods need to collect data that would allow generalizability
Pitfalls and Common Problems

• Your proposal should include appropriate methods for the data collected and a well-designed research question.
  • Grammar and syntax problems may come secondary as criteria points are not deducted.
  • Not all proposal weaknesses are created equal; however, still run spell check.

• What is needed to “make the data talk”?
  • Propose an analysis that fits the study design and the data it will collect.
  • Discuss whether the methods will collect enough data for the project or have adequate “power.”
  • Identify potential sources of bias and address them in the analysis.
  • Use caution analyzing multiple years of test data that aren’t standardized.
  • Your analysis should match the methods.
Have questions? Need advice? Want an expert to read over your application?

• Members of the PAEA Research Mission Advancement Commission (RMAC) are available for email and/or phone consultation.

• Send an email to research@PAEAonline.org with a subject line “Don Pedersen Application Support”

Additional Resources

2019 Education Forum & Fall Workshops
October 10-15, 2019

Journal of Physician Assistant Education
JAAPA
NCCPA Research
IPEDS - National education data

Your PAEA Research Team