

Minnesota Population Center (MPC) Graduate Student Research Development Grants

MPC invites applications for Graduate Student Research Development Grants. The purpose of these grants is to help MPC Student Members develop independent research projects toward their dissertations, theses, or publishable papers. MPC supports research in population studies within [our mission](#) and with a focus on five primary research areas:

- [Population Health and Health Systems](#)
- [Population Mobility and Spatial Demography](#)
- [Reproductive and Sexual Health](#)
- [Work, Family, and Time](#)
- [Structural Racism and Health Inequities](#)

These small grants (\$500 - \$2,000) are designed to help graduate students access the resources they need to develop, conduct, or complete a research project. Funds may be used for travel for field work or other research, to purchase data, to hire field researchers or pay participants, or to hire a translator or transcriber. Other similar expenses may be eligible. Software may be an eligible expense depending on the title and the situation. **Funds may not be used** to cover dissemination travel, training, or professional development expenses. All funds must be spent within 12 months from the start date of the grant. Please contact Gina Rumore (grumore@umn.edu) if you have questions about allowable expenses.

MPC expects to make two to four Graduate Student Research Grants per year. Applications will be reviewed biannually at the March and November Advisory Board meetings. All applications must be received by February 15 or October 15 to be considered in the respective, spring semester/fall semester, cycle.

Eligibility. All MPC Graduate Student Members (Master's and PhD) are eligible to apply. University of Minnesota graduate students who are not currently affiliated with MPC can request affiliation (and thus become eligible to apply) by sending a CV and brief statement of research interests to mpc@umn.edu. Individuals are not eligible for more than one grant in an academic year, though applicants may reapply if not funded. To be considered for a second grant, applicants must demonstrate that they accomplished all they promised for a previous grant.

Evaluation Criteria. Applications for MPC Graduate Student Research Development Grants will be evaluated by the MPC Advisory Board based on the promise of the project to lead toward a dissertation or thesis chapter, a publishable paper, and/or a proposal for external funding. Specific criteria include

- Research question or questions are clearly defined.
- The gap in the research literature is clearly identified as is the contribution to the literature of the proposed project.
- The significance of the research question(s) is clear as is the relevance to one of the themes and the mission listed above.
- Expected outcomes are clearly articulated.
- Student's contribution to/role on project is clear as is other sources of funding that are available to the project/student.
- Budget is well thought out and expenses are clearly justified.

Submission Instructions. MPC Graduate Research Development Grant applications must be sent to Gina Rumore (grumore@umn.edu) by midnight on February 15 or October 15

MPC Research Development Grant applications must include

1. A two-page project description, including
 - Project title
 - Executive summary/abstract (less than 150 words)
 - Specific aim(s) or research question(s)

- A statement regarding the *significance* of the research to be proposed
 - A brief discussion of *likely methods and data* to be used in the research plan
 - A discussion of the anticipated outcome of the funded activity
 - A description of the student's contribution to the project, the role of the mentor, and other sources of funding available for the research/project; describe how the proposed work is distinct from already funded research and what is the unique contribution to be undertaken with the requested funding.
2. A description and justification of funds requested; please outline exactly what you need and why, as related to the proposed project.
 3. Up to one page of references and/or tables and figures
 4. A two-page curriculum vitae
 5. An email or letter from student's advisor approving the proposed project and activity