

SGEA MESRE Grants 2025 Call for Proposals



PURPOSE

The Southern Group on Educational Affairs (SGEA) supports and encourages scholarship in medical education. The SGEA also seeks to promote collaborative projects across institutions, and sections (UME, GME, CME, and MESRE), and seeks to stimulate the development of a community of educational scholars. To help its members participate in opportunities that provide educational scholarship, the SGEA provides funding to initiate new Medical Education Scholarship, Research and Evaluation (MESRE) grant proposals.

This year, the SGEA will provide up to **two (2), two-year research grants**. The grant award may total up to \$7,500 for submissions involving one institution and up to \$10,000 for submissions involving the collaboration of two (2) or more institutions. Proposals are due August 15, 2025. Awarded grants will be funded beginning on January 1, 2026. Project proposals must be consistent with previously published criteria for scholarship and provide additional opportunities for others to build upon this work.

ELIGIBILITY

Medical educators **from all SGEA member institutions** are eligible to submit a proposal. Applicants **may submit only one proposal per cycle** and may not be an author on any other proposal currently receiving SGEA funding.

Concurrent Regional MESRE Grant Support Guidelines & FAQs

MESRE encourages collaboration to support high-quality research and scholarship. However, to ensure a broad allocation of resources among investigators and the responsible allocation of reviewer time, the following policies apply to the Regional MESRE Grants:

Can I apply for a Regional GEA MESRE Grant if I am a collaborator on a project that is currently funded by a national or other regional GEA MESRE? No, individuals may only apply (as the principal investigator or a team member) if they are not currently supported by a National or Regional MESRE Grant in any GEA region at the time of application.

Can our team submit the same project to different regions? No, the same project proposal should not be submitted to the MESRE Regional Grant in multiple GEA regions during the same review period, and redundant submissions from the same research team(s) may be rejected. An unfunded proposal may be revised and resubmitted, but only to one regional call in a given award period.

Can I propose different projects during the same review period? No, applicants may submit only one proposal per cycle, and individuals (the principal investigator or a team member) may not receive Regional MESRE Grant funding from multiple regions within the same funding period.

Can I submit multiple related proposals from the same project in the same cycle? No, we strongly discourage multiple proposals from the same project in the same year due to concerns about salami slicing. Related projects should not be submitted as multiple proposals presenting a subset of methodologies (often with different PIs), but rather the team should submit the work as a single proposal that fully represents the project and answers the research question. Redundant proposal submissions from the same research team(s) may be rejected.

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TIMELINE FOR PROPOSALS

- Grant proposals due: August 15, 2025 at 11:59PM EST
- Review process: August 15 - November 30, 2025
- Decisions anticipated by: December 15, 2025
- Earliest project start date: January 1, 2026

APPLICATION COMPONENTS AND SUBMISSION PROCESS

- 1) Applications must be submitted electronically as a single PDF document to the online MESRE form: bit.ly/submitMESREgrant
- 2) **Cover page** (excluded from page limit) must include:
 - a) Name of applicant(s) and affiliated SGEA medical school(s) and Section(s) project focuses on [undergraduate (UME), graduate (GME), and/or continuing (CME) medical education]
 - b) Project title
 - c) Contact information for project leader (mailing address, telephone, fax, email)
 - d) Institutional grant/development officer to whom payment will be made (name, title, address, phone, fax and email)
- 3) **Proposal** must be typed with 12 point font, 1 inch margins. Proposals should not exceed 5 single spaced typed pages including all tables, figures, and other attachments; proposals must include:
 - a) Statement of the Problem [Evaluated for clarity and potential impact on medical education]
 - b) Hypothesis or research question
 - c) Review of Pertinent Literature (Evaluated for completeness and inclusion of theoretical or conceptual framework)
 - d) Methodology [Evaluated for clarity, appropriateness, including design and sample size]
 - e) Description of data collection and management (address IRB approval)
 - f) Anticipated Outcomes (e.g., impact on medical education)
 - g) Plan for Dissemination of Project Outcomes regionally and nationally; this should include a statement of your intent to present your work at the annual SGEA regional meeting within 3 years of the award start date.
 - h) Project Timeline (not to exceed 24 months). [Evaluated for feasibility and probability of success]
 - i) Budget, including itemized costs and justification. [Must be realistic]
 - j) Eligibility for priority consideration (optional – see review criteria)
- 4) **Appendices** (excluded from the 5-page limit)
 - a) References listing any citations from the proposal
 - b) Biographical sketches of PI and Co-PIs (no more than 2 pages/individual); please include relevant skills and lists of durable educational materials/publications that demonstrate knowledge/skill in the area being proposed for study
 - c) Letters of support are required from any key participants or institutional support personnel (including mentors for junior investigators), stating their commitment to the project. Letters of support must be sent in electronic format.
 - d) If this is a research project involving human subjects, a letter of approval from the host Institutional Review Board stating that the project is approved or that approval was not necessary will be required prior to funding of an approved proposal.

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ANNUAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE AND REVIEW PROCESS

Proposals must be received by **August 15, 2025 at 11:59 pm EST** to be considered for funding.

Each year the *Review Panel* will be appointed by the MESRE chair-elect of the SGEA and will include the MESRE section chair, 2-3 current Steering Committee Members, and may include, as needed, 1-2 external reviewers. Reviewers may not be authors of proposals under consideration during the review cycle. If a potential reviewer has any real or apparent conflict of interest with a specific proposal, then the reviewer should not be involved in the entire review of proposals. If such a person is involved in the review process, then they **MUST** exclude themselves from the review of the proposal with which they have a conflict of interest. Examples of real conflict of interest are being an employee at the same institution, having an active collaboration with the PI or any Co-PI, as well as formally or currently mentoring or advising the PI or any co-PI.

Funding decisions will be announced by December 2025.

Number of proposals funded per year will depend upon the SGEA Budget and proposal quality, with a typical range of 1-3.

Upon completion of the project the project team leader or member(s) *must submit a proposal* to present the project results at the annual SGEA meeting. Funding to cover travel to the SGEA meeting to present project results is not to be included in the project budget; it is the responsibility of the individuals and/or their institution to support travel to disseminate project results.

REVIEW CRITERIA

Each proposal will be judged on the following criteria:

- 1) Degree of collaboration across the SGEA Section(s) and institutions.
- 2) Clarity of goals, relevance to the literature, inclusion of theoretical or conceptual framework, appropriateness of methodology, and plan for dissemination.
- 3) Potential to impact medical education and serve as a model for other initiatives.

FUNDING PROVIDED FOR:

- Administrative/technical support to carry out project (e.g., clerical, computer).
- Supplies/expenses (e.g., duplication, mailings, incentives) and
- Communication(s) between participants (e.g., web/phone conference)
- There is a maximum award of \$7,500 for submissions involving one institution and \$10,000 for submissions involving the collaboration of two (2) or more institutions with unexpended funds returned to SGEA within 60 days of award end date.
- **Indirect costs and salaries will NOT be covered.** These small grants were designed to promote medical education research. The monies are not intended to go for facilities costs, but rather materials needed to conduct the studies (including survey instruments, statistical support, time in the simulation lab, etc.)

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COMMITMENT TO FOSTERING INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE ACADEMIC ENVIRONMENTS

The SGEA is committed to fostering inclusive and equitable academic environments through its Collaborative Grant Program. We welcome proposals that explore barriers to participation in medical education, develop innovative strategies to promote inclusion, or expand access to medical education and scholarship. We encourage collaborative applications that bring together individuals from different professional backgrounds such as a faculty member partnered with a student, resident, fellow, administrative staff members, or colleagues with complementary academic or clinical expertise (e.g., a PhD/EdD paired with an MD/DO) to better support interdisciplinary perspectives and shared learning.

PROGRESS AND FINAL REPORTS

- Project director will be required to submit two progress reports. In the first year of the award an interim report is due no later than 1 month prior to the fall AAMC meeting. In the second year of the award a progress report is due no later than one month prior to the Spring SGEA Annual Meeting.
- Progress reports must include progress to date, obstacles and solutions, dissemination activities and budget report.
- Projects whose directors are no longer members in the SGEA must submit a request for approval of a new project director with continued funding contingent on approval of the SGEA Past Chair.
- A final report must be submitted within 60 days of project completion date to the SGEA MESRE Chair and include copies of materials developed, dissemination activity, and sustainability (e.g., sources and amount of continued funding).

PROJECT DISSEMINATION:

- All publications, presentations and/or products resulting from this project must acknowledge the SGEA as sponsors of the work.
- As noted above, the project team leader or member(s) *must submit a proposal* to present the project results at the annual SGEA Regional Meeting in the year following the end of the grant.

QUESTIONS?

All inquiries and communications should be addressed to the current SGEA MESRE Section Chair, Laura Weingartner, PhD, MS (laura.weingartner@louisville.edu).