East Tennessee State University
College of Nursing

Center for Nursing Research
Student Scholar Program Policy

Purpose of the Student Scholar Program
The purpose of the Student Scholar Program is to provide research seed funds for students to develop research proposals. Projects should address a high impact and fundable area of research. Proposals that are the most significant, the best conceptualized, built on the strongest methodologies, and with high potential for external funding are selected for internal pilot funds. The Research Council believes that this process will help ensure that external grant applications are more competitive.

Eligibility. Eligible faculty must be a member of the College of Nursing.

Number of Pilot Study Awards. Each year the Associate Dean for Research will determine the number of pilot studies that may be funded based on the amount of available funds. Unfunded grant applications may be revised based on reviewers' comments and resubmitted in the next semester.

Due Dates. A call for proposals with specific due dates will be advertised in the Fall and Spring Semesters. This will help assure that all research proposals receive equal consideration.

Proposal Guidelines. The funding level will not exceed $1000. The funding is limited to one year. The proposal should not exceed 5 single-spaced pages.

The proposal should include:
1. Date Submitted
2. Specific Aims
3. Background and Significance
4. Preliminary Studies (if relevant)
5. Research Design and Methods
6. Analysis Plan
7. Detailed Time Frame
8. Target Date for Submission of Extramural Proposal
9. Target Funding Agency
10. Detailed budget and budget justification
11. Letters of support from collaborating investigators (not included in page total)

Three copies of the proposal and one copy of the investigator's curriculum vita must be submitted. Submission details will be included in the Call for Proposals.

Reviewers. The Research Council Chair will appoint members of the Research Council to review the proposals. Reviews will be completed within 3 weeks of the submission deadline. The Research Council Chair will notify the applicants of the decision. All applications will receive comments from the reviewers.

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Scoring System. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Scoring System will be used to score the proposals. The NIH scoring system uses a 9-point scale for both individual review criteria scores and the overall impact score. (see Table 1).

Table 1.

Overall Criterion or Impact Strength	Score	Descriptor
High	1	Exceptional
	2	Outstanding
	3	Excellent
Medium	4	Very Good
	5	Good
	6	Satisfactory
Low	7	Fair
	8	Marginal
	9	Poor

Expectations of Funded Investigators. A final report must be submitted to the Research Council Chair 12 months after the start date or within 30 days of the grant closeout. The final report must include a narrative of accomplishments, any publications resulting from the study and a financial accounting of expenditures. The investigator must submit copies of all publications resulting from the study. The final report is limited to 3 single-spaced pages.