

Mid-Atlantic Regional Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine
Graduate Student Research Project Awards

To support graduate student researchers aiming to advance the science and practice of exercise and sports medicine, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine is pleased to announce the Graduate Student Research Project Awards. Up to three \$500 awards will be made to students who demonstrate the ability to conduct high-quality research projects in their area of training. The goal of this initiative is to support research proposed by graduate student members of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Chapter. This could be leveraged to advance their thesis/dissertation projects or the collection of preliminary data for larger, prospective student grants and awards.

AWARD: The Mid-Atlantic Regional Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine will be offering three awards. Each award will provide complimentary registration to the 2025 Mid-Atlantic Regional Chapter's Annual Meeting. Each award recipient will be encouraged to attend the annual awards banquet and luncheon at the end of the annual meeting on November 7-8, 2025 to be recognized for receiving the award. Candidates who receive funding will have one year to complete the proposed project and provide a report to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Chapter Research Committee by August 31, 2026. The report should consist of an abstract detailing the project and its findings. Students will also be encouraged to present the results of their project at the MARC-ACSM Annual Meeting in November 2026.

DUE DATE: July 1, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. EDT

REVIEW: Submitted applications will be reviewed by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine's Research Committee. Submissions from eligible applicants will be evaluated on (1) Significance and innovation; (2) Quality of the research plan and approach; and (3) Applicant and letter of support from mentor. Scoring in each category will follow the standard National Institutes of Health (NIH) format with a 9-point rating scale (1=exceptional; 9=poor) for all applications. All reviews for the awards will be confidential. All scores and award decisions are considered final and are not subject to appeal.

ELIGIBILITY:

- The applicant must be a current master's or doctoral student at the time the application is submitted (July 1, 2025). Applicants must plan to complete their current degree no sooner than the end of the spring 2026 academic semester.
- The applicant must be a current member of national ACSM and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Chapter at both the time of application, and at the time the award is presented

(November 2025). If you are not currently a member, please visit <https://www.acsm.org/> and click on the “membership” tab for information, benefits, and instructions.

- The applicant should not have duplicate funding through another grant or award for the components of the research plan being proposed (i.e., there should be no budgetary overlap between this award and other funding obtained by the student or their mentor/PI). *Graduate students who are current recipients of significant grants or fellowship awards (e.g., NIH F31, AHA predoctoral fellowship, or similar) are not eligible for this award.*
- Please direct any questions regarding eligibility to Research Committee chair Dr. Steven Prior (sprior@umd.edu).

REQUIREMENTS:

Applications must consist of the following components, in order, merged into a single PDF for submission.

- 1) Application Cover Page
 - a. Complete the page below
- 2) Applicant’s Curriculum Vitae
 - a. No specific format, but limit to 2 pages. Emphasize relevant research experience, publications, presentations. Also indicate any current or prior independent funding or fellowship awards.
- 3) A Narrative Research Plan (*No more than 2 pages in length, excluding references*)
 - a. The research plan must be single spaced, 11 pt. font (Times New Roman, Arial or Calibri), with 0.5-inch margins on all sides.
 - b. The research plan should be organized into three sections, with no specific length requirements for any given section:
 - i. Specific Aims
 - ii. Significance & Innovation
 - iii. Research Design & Approach
- 4) Budget (*No more than 1 page*)
 - a. Briefly indicate the budget items in tabular form, then provide a brief paragraph to justify each expense.
 - b. Allowed expenses include things such as participant reimbursement, laboratory supplies, etc.
 - c. Funds should not be used for travel, or to pay investigators or staff. Facilities and administrative (indirect) costs are not permitted.
- 5) Letter of support from Primary Advisor/Mentor (*No more than 1 page*)
 - a. The letter should a) speak to the quality of the applicant, b) address the significance of the project for the applicant’s progress in their degree program, c) indicate the mentor’s support of the project, d) confirm the project can be completed in 1 year, and e) confirm that overlapping funds does not exist for the requested budget items.

**Graduate Student Research Project Award
Application Cover Page**

Name: _____ ACSM Member ID: _____

Masters Ph.D. Degree Program: _____

Expected Graduation Date: _____

University / College: _____

Department: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Postal Code: _____

Country: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____

Submission Checklist - The following items must be included, in order, and combined into a single PDF:

- Completed Award Application Cover Page
- Curriculum Vitae
- Research Plan & References
- Budget & Justification
- Letter of Support

Application must be received at sprior@umd.edu by 11:59 p.m. on July 1, 2025.