

Lakers Venture Grant Program
REFERENCE ONLY: APPLY ONLINE

LAKERS VENTURE GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS

The application is an individual effort of one potential student scholar. At present, collaborative applications between students are not accepted. An undergraduate student may propose a research or creative project that will require substantial dedication to a research and/or creative project during the following semester to the application cycle.

The application process has two steps:

The Pre-Application (you can access the form [here](#). 250 words max for prompts #1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 7 (half a page single-spaced per answer) and 500 words max for prompt #3 (a page single-spaced per answer):

1. What do you plan to accomplish? What question or hypotheses are you exploring? (Or, for creative artists: What project are you pursuing?)
2. What's the significance of your research question or creative project? How does your research question connect to current thinking in your field? (This is the 'literature review and significance of project' question.)
3. How will you achieve your objective(s)? What is your Project Plan? What steps will you take? What methods will you use? What's the timeline for your research plan or creative project? (This is the 'scope and feasibility' question.)
4. How are you well prepared for your project? What courses, undergraduate research experiences, internships, or other experiences have helped set the foundation for what you want to do?
5. What resources do you need? (what sources of information, supplies, travel funding, equipment, creative space, or other things ... do you need to do what you want to do?) (Note texts, observations, archives, datasets, source materials, interviews, etc., you will need to pursue your project.)
6. Budget: What items will you need to purchase? What travel costs and entrance fees will you need to plan for? (Don't forget the cost of a passport, for example, and hotel stays!)
7. How will you share your results? (What's your plan for dissemination?)

The Application, which has five sections

- Project Goal and Significance: What you hope to accomplish and why it matters 😊!
(max 2 pages) – This prompt is from the Pre-App worksheet, items 1 and 2
- Project Feasibility/Scope (max 2 pages) – This prompt is from the Pre-App worksheet, item 3
- Student Preparation and Resources needed (max 2 pages *exclusive of résumé & unofficial transcript*) – This prompt is from the Pre-App worksheet, items 4 and 5

Note that at the end of your proposal, as a supplement to this section, you should include:

- Short résumé listing major GPA, overall GPA, work, volunteer, and educational experiences that will help you complete the project. Remember to consult the Writing Center or Career Services for help in preparing your résumé.

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- Unofficial transcript. If your major or overall GPA is below a 3.0 or if there are any other special circumstances concerning your past coursework, address how you are preparing to successfully complete the proposed project.
- Budget (use the worksheet supplied in the website) - This prompt is from the Pre-App worksheet, item 6 – don't just ask for \$2000 😊
- Dissemination Plan (max 1 page) - This prompt is from the Pre-App worksheet, item 7

Advice and Formatting Guidance for Proposal Writers! The proposal must be written in language accessible to a faculty member from *any* discipline. Proposals **must** be written in 12-point Times New Roman font, single-spaced, with 1-inch margins. Proposals must have a cover sheet featuring a title, student scholar name, and faculty recommenders' names. Proposals must include section headers and page numbers. The proposal should be written for a **non-specialist**. Technical jargon must be minimized, and where such terms are necessary, they should be clearly explained so that a faculty review committee member from *any* discipline could understand the purpose and goals of the project.

Dissemination Plan / Reporting Out: Grantees are required to participate in the Student Scholars Day in April following the grant period.

AWARD

The Lakers Venture Grant program at GVSU **provides students with up to \$2000 in funding to conduct immersive, student-driven, original and independent research (which may occur in conjunction with a faculty mentor's research but needs to have an independent element)** or to pursue experiential projects in the arts.

The Lakers Venture Grant award enables an undergraduate student to propose an intensive research, scholarly, or creative project to be conducted or created during the semester following the application cycle. Awards will be made based on the quality of the proposals. Each award includes up to \$2,000 (depending on itemized, detailed budget) for travel costs and incidentals directly associated with the project (for example: museum passes, least-cost short-term accommodation at the research site, transportation to the research location, etc.).

Limitations to the Award:

- The award cannot go toward activities associated with a credit-bearing course at Grand Valley or elsewhere.
- The award cannot go toward the cost of a private language tutor, a dance instructor, or other private lessons.
- The award cannot go toward the transportation cost of a return to one's hometown or country of origin.



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RESPONSIBILITY OF FACULTY RECOMMENDERS

The faculty recommenders must be certain that the proposed project qualifies as research or other creative endeavor that will contribute to the intellectual growth and capability of the student.

The faculty recommenders should provide enough guidance to the student to ensure that: a) the proposal is well-written and can be understood by an educated person who is not a specialist in the field; b) the application is complete and follows the prescribed format; and c) required information on responsible conduct of research (with appropriate protocols/forms) is supplied. The faculty recommenders should indicate that the student has received appropriate training.

The faculty recommenders must complete the online Lakers Venture Grant Program Faculty Recommendation/Endorsement form by the relevant proposal deadline in fall or winter.

RESPONSIBILITY OF STUDENT (LAKERS VENTURE GRANT RECIPIENT)

Each student Lakers Venture Grant recipient is responsible for the quality of their research project and for their conduct as a representative of Grand Valley State University at all research locations. They need to be self-directed in their research, mature, courteous, ethical in every aspect of their research program and aware of the impact of their actions within the communities and organizations they visit.

It is the student's responsibility to make sure that the pre-application and then the application is complete and submitted to the Center for Undergraduate Scholar Engagement by the relevant deadlines. The applicants should work with their faculty recommenders to ensure that they have received appropriate training and, if required, submitted the appropriate forms for work involving human subjects, live vertebrate animals, radioisotopes, or other hazardous materials as they develop their proposal. They should be sure that their recommenders have the information they need to complete the recommendation forms and that they know the deadline by which the recommendation is needed.

Each Lakers Venture Grant recipient must fulfill the dissemination requirement: designing and presenting a poster or oral presentation at the next available Student Scholars Day to the grant period.

BKT 11/15/2023