

CSM SPRING 2026 RESEARCH AWA (RAWA)

Faculty members in the College of the Sciences and Mathematics are invited to apply for a research AWA (RAWA) for the Spring 2026 semester.

Important Dates

Submission deadline: Friday, September 19, 2025 at 11:59 pm.

All applications must be submitted to [Qualtrics](#) as a single pdf file, including the cover sheet signed by the the applicant and their department chair. Email submissions will not be accepted.

Award notifications will be emailed the week of October 6, 2025

Eligibility

Tenured or tenure-track regular faculty members with an appointment in the College of the Sciences and Mathematics are eligible to apply. Priority will be given to proposals that demonstrate potential for future external funding.

Faculty receiving research AWAs from any unit within WCU for the 25-26 academic year are not eligible to apply for RAWA for the Spring 2026 semester.

Awards made through this RFP are for the Spring 2026 semester only. Faculty receiving these AWAs cannot use them for overload purposes.

Faculty must complete a [post-award report](#) describing the outcomes achieved due to the RAWA at the conclusion of the Spring 2026 semester.

Purpose

RAWA is designed to support and encourage scholarly activities among faculty within the College of the Sciences and Mathematics by reducing their teaching load to allow for more time to focus on research productivity. The maximum award is three credits of AWA.

Application Guidelines

The RAWA award provides an opportunity for faculty to devote time to further their scholarly activities. The RAWA award is a scholarly product that carries merit in the teacher-scholar models of many departments and by tenure and promotion committees. Therefore, the quality of the application is expected to be commensurate with professional and academic standards. The application for a RAWA award must consist of the following materials:

1. **Narrative Description.** A maximum of 3 pages, single-spaced, 0.75 inch margin, 12-pt font, using language that can be understood by faculty from any discipline. Please include the project title and applicant's name on the first page of the proposal. A

narrative description of the proposed project that contains the components listed below must be provided. All parts of the proposal should be labeled, using the topics below as section headings. The evaluation of the proposal will be based, in part, on how the narrative description addresses these topics:

- **Purpose and Significance.** Address the intellectual merit and the scholarly importance of the proposed project. Describe the research question to be answered or the scope and purpose of the creative work. Describe how the research will add to the body of scholarship in the discipline. If applicable, a review of the relevant literature with appropriate references to the most recent literature should be included.
 - **Recent Accomplishments.** Provide a general description of scholarly output over the last three years. New faculty members applying for RAWA can add the accomplishments from their past research experience if they have not been at WCU for three years.
 - **Dissemination of Results.** Describe how the results of the project will be disseminated to the campus, scholarly, and/or creative community. Describe papers, presentations, books, and other scholarly products that are anticipated as a result of the work. Describe the likelihood of completion of these scholarly products and any anticipated obstacles to their completion.
 - **Outcomes and Deliverables.** Describe the scholarly growth and development anticipated for the RAWA applicant in Spring 2026. Describe other scholarly opportunities that might become available to the applicant following the completion of this project. If applicable, describe anticipated educational outcomes for students involved in the project. If applicable, describe how other sources of funding might be identified for a subsequent project or continuation of the project, such as grant proposals to be submitted or partnerships to be developed.
2. **Résumé.** 2 pages. Please include relevant qualifications, experience, publications, and applicable research grants.

Faculty Mentors

The following CSM faculty members are recent RAWA recipients who have kindly agreed to serve as mentors to any applicants who would like guidance with proposal preparation or the RAWA submission process. Mentor contact information is provided below:

Jennifer Maresh, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Department of Biology

jmaresh@wcupa.edu

Jacqueline M. Zalewski, PhD

Professor, Department of Sociology

jzalewski@wcupa.edu

Si Chen, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Computer Science

Schen@wcupa.edu

Megan Fork, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Department of Biology

Mfork@wcupa.edu

Thomas Kwiatkowski, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry

TKwiatkowski@wcupa.edu

Dean's Office Contact

Ashlie Delshad, Ph.D.

Interim Associate Dean

College of the Sciences and Mathematics

Anderson 320

610-436-3533

Adelshad@wcupa.edu