Center of Excellence in Applied Computational Science and Engineering (CEACSE): Planning and Capacity Building for Collaborative Teams (PACCT) FY2024-25

Information Session
Overview

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PACCT Program Overview
CEACSE PACCT is seed funding intended to...

- Enhance and expand UTC’s capacities in Computational Science and Engineering
- Stimulate Computational Science and Engineering research activity across a broader range of departments
- Build capacity to attract external funds

NOT to take the place of extramural funding!
Proposals should demonstrate that they…

• Relate to mobility and transportation or quantum technologies
• Will result in high-impact, peer-reviewed publications
• Can “seed” larger, long-term extramural funding
FY2024-25 Priority Areas

1. Mobility and Transportation
2. Quantum Technologies
• **Year 1**: Formalize collaboration, establish research collaboration website, refine community engagement plan and 5-year research agenda, and prepare for the pilot/small-scale research project.

• **Year 2**: Conduct the pilot/small-scale project, analyze results, implement the community engagement plan, and apply for external funding.
• Successful projects will result in the following outcomes by the end of the project period:
  • Research collaboration website, linked to the UTC Research Institute
  • Community engagement events or activities
  • Preliminary data or prototype
  • Refined 5-year research agenda with specific external funding opportunities
  • At least 1 proposal submitted for external funding
Eligibility

• Eligible individuals can be Lead PI on only 1 proposal and a team member or co-PI on no more than 2 proposals. [3 total]

• The collaboration must be led by a minimum of 2 full-time, tenured or tenure-track UTC faculty, each with a primary appointment in a different UTC College
  • Identify one to serve as PI and the other to serve as Co-PI
  • Proposals that include two lead faculty from the same college will be returned without review
  • Additional faculty/staff, including non-tenure track faculty, may also participate as collaboration members but must have a meaningful role.

• The collaboration must align with one of the following FY24 priority areas: Mobility & Transportation or Quantum Technologies

• All teams must receive an endorsement and signature from the Lead PI’s Department Head.
Amount and Duration

- Maximum award amount: $125,000
- Project period: 24 months (January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025)
- Anticipated number of awards: up to six

There will be NO extensions.
Proposal Preparation
Instructions
Application Components:

- Applicant information
- Co-PI information
- Proposal Title
- Proposal Abstract
- Narrative
- Budget Narrative
- Five-Year Funding Plan
Application Components:

Uploads

- Proposal Abstract (200 words)
- Narrative (3-page limit)
- Budget Narrative (1-page limit)
- Five-Year Funding Plan (1-page limit)

Instructions for each document can be found in the RFP and in InfoReady Review.
Proposals due: 11:59 PM EST on October 23, 2023 in InfoReady Review.

Competition will be open for submissions on or before September 1st, 2023.
Budgeting Considerations
Allowable Costs

• Faculty effort, including course releases and/or summer salary for 9-month appointments
• Student effort, including assistantships and hourly undergraduate students
• Fringe benefits associated with requested salary/wages/stipends
• Consultant fees for industry/community partners
• Equipment (individual units costing $5,000 or more)
• Materials and supplies, including software
• Planning meeting/workshop costs
• Travel (meeting, conferences, etc.)
• Publication fees
Unallowable Costs

- Extra services compensation during the academic year
- Non-student administrative or clerical support costs
- Indirect or F&A costs
- Supplantation of costs (e.g., lab space) typically covered by other institutional sources
Budgeting

• Budget Narrative - In 1 page or less, state the amount of funding requested and how you would use PACCT funding to support the aims and activities of the project.

• Budgets narratives will be reviewed only to ensure that costs are allowable, reasonable, and sufficient to support the proposed scope of work.

• UTC Research Institute will work with PIs to create budgets at time of award
• Floor stipend levels required for GAs
  • $22K/year for PhD GAs
  • $6k/semester for MS GAs

• Fringe benefits - 9% for students, 34% for faculty/staff

• Extra services compensation during the academic appointment term is not permitted.

• Equipment cannot exceed 30% of total budget

• Contact Anna Lane (anna-lane@utc.edu) with CEACSE budget-related questions.
Project Requirements
Required Approvals

- IRB or IACUC approval*
  - not required for submission, but needed before research with humans or animals begins
- Export Control and other Research Security issues*
- Conflict of Interest issues*
- Human Subjects*
- Vertebrate Animal Research*
- Biohazardous Materials*
- Additional space, equipment, or IT needs
  - must be approved in advance by appropriate administrator

*Contact ORI with questions (utc.edu/ori)
All awarded PIs must:

• Submit a brief status report by the end of year 1.

• **Year 1 PACCT Workshop**: In fall 2024, awardees must attend a 2-day workshop to present the status of their planning efforts and pitch their plan for the pilot/small-scale research project. The workshop will include industry/community stakeholders to reinforce cross-sector collaboration efforts. **Awardees must attend this workshop to be eligible to receive year 2 funding.**

• Present research activities at the annual UTC Spring Research and Arts Conference in April 2024

• Submit a final report within 60 days of award end date
Other Requirements

• The collaboration must develop a **community engagement plan** and identify at least one industry or community partner to serve as a collaborator.

• The collaboration must propose a **5-year research agenda** with specific external funding opportunities that will be pursued beyond the project period.
Extramural Funding

• **At least one** external funding application must result from each PACCT award.

• Work with ORSP to complete and submit proposals **well in advance** of the sponsor deadline.

• Failure to apply for external funding will affect eligibility for future PACCT awards.
Review Process
Review Criteria

• **Scientific Merit:** The proposed collaboration identifies a specific challenge within Transportation & Mobility or Quantum Technologies and details an innovative, interdisciplinary approach to address that challenge.

• **Qualifications of the Project Team:** The proposed collaboration includes two lead faculty from different UTC colleges. All collaboration members have a significant role on the project and the necessary expertise to implement it successfully.

• **Impact and Sustainability:** The proposed collaboration details a clear and concise plan for sustainability and utilizes relevant infrastructure and equipment available on UTC’s campus.
Peer Review

• Internal review panel
  • The internal review panel will consist of UTC administrators and other stakeholders
FAQ
Eligibility

• I’m not tenured or tenure-track. Can I still apply?
  • Only tenured or tenure-track faculty can apply as the PI, but you can participate as a co-PI.

• Can I have a foreign co-PI?
  • No.

• Can my postdoc be a PI?
  • No, but postdocs may be co-PIs.
Priority Areas

• Does my project have to fit exactly within one of the two research areas?
  • Yes

• What if I’m not sure what area my project fits into?
  • Contact Dr. Mina-Sartipi at Mina-Sartipi@utc.edu
    Jordan Gwarjanski at Jordan-Gwarjanski@utc.edu
    or Ashley Ledford at Ashley-Ledford@utc.edu
    before submitting.
• Will slides be available?
  • Yes! Slides will be posted on the CEACSE program page. (utc.edu/CEACSE)
Q&A
Resources

• CEACSE Program Webpage: www.utc.edu/ceacse

• InfoReady Review (submission portal): https://tennessee.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1915029
• Program-related Questions:
  Dr. Mina Sartipi at Mina-Sartipi@utc.edu

• Budget-related Questions:
  Anna Lane at Anna-Lane@utc.edu

• InfoReady Review-related Questions:
  Jordan-Gwarjanski at Jordan-Gwarjanski@utc.edu
Thank you!