

Doctoral Dissertation Grants: Suggested Timeline

The dissertation grant application process can take a long time- as much as 12 to 18 months.

It is advisable for you to begin planning your dissertation research as soon as possible in your graduate career. It is never too early to think about this. It is expected that you will work closely with your dissertation adviser and you should be able to rely on his/her advice regarding the application process in your specific discipline.

As soon as possible:

- Develop a preliminary idea for your research project.
- Review funding sources that may be available (use our list or any other source).
- Become familiar with the funding source requirements and deadlines.
- Work with your dissertation adviser to plan your research project and define the process for completing it.
- Start any preliminary research required.

Six to 12 months prior to application submission:

- Consult with your adviser.
- Contact the potential funding source to make sure that your project is one they are interested in supporting and, to learn their specific requirements and timelines. Many funders have “project officers” who will be happy to provide advice and encouragement.
- Contact the UA [Office of Research Services and Sponsored Programs](#) for UA requirements. Assure that you understand all the requirements for submitting the proposal and make a plan for meeting them.
- Write a first draft and review the draft with your adviser.

Less than 6 months to application submission:

- Continue to revise your proposal in consultation with your adviser (and dissertation committee if appropriate).
- If the proposal requires IRB, animal care, or biohazard reviews by UA make sure that the appropriate review(s) are scheduled.
- Assemble all supporting materials such as CV's, research grant budgets, recommendation letters, personal statements (if required),
- Consult the [Office of Research Services and Sponsored Programs](#) to assure that all preparations have been completed.
- Obtain required signatures.
- Submit the application. This may require the use of special web sites or the Grants.gov website. The Office of Research Services and Sponsored Research can help.

Post Application:

Funders have various review processes, and these will take varying amounts of time. In some cases you will be able to follow the progress of your review online or by contacting project officers. When the review process is complete you will be notified by the funder about their decision.

The funding process may require that you resubmit your application with appropriate revisions. Be sure you understand any new deadlines related to resubmission. Talk with your adviser and the funder about what are appropriate revisions.

If your project is funded, the Office of Research Services and Sponsored Programs will assist you in setting up your grant accounts, etc.

Good Luck!