



Mini-Grants Program 2024

Atlanta University Center Data Science Initiative

The Atlanta University Center (AUC) Data Science Initiative is committed to supporting innovations in data science across the AUC member institutions – Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Morehouse School of Medicine, and Spelman College – and the AUC Robert W. Woodruff Library. We are pleased to offer various development opportunities to give faculty and staff additional resources that will enhance their ability to be productive scholars in data science.

About the AUC Data Science Mini-Grants Program

The AUC Data Science Initiative invites Affiliates to apply for mini-grants to stimulate data science-related research and curriculum development productivity. (If you are not an affiliate, please inquire.) The mini-grants aim to strengthen research and inform teaching. The AUC Data Science Initiative is particularly interested in data science education that increases the number of African Americans with expertise in credentials in data science, and data science research that addresses race, gender, and social justice aspects of data science.

For data science education-focused proposals, the project may adopt, adapt, create, or improve curricular materials, curriculum design, or practices in ways that improve the learning and learning environments of data science. For data science research-focused proposals, the project should address how the research will expand advances in data science and the potential for discovery across different disciplinary areas.

Requests typically supported through other AUC member institutional resources or supported by other funding channels will not be considered. In the event the applicant is awarded institutional or other additional funding, the institutional or other additional funding is to be used prior to AUC Data Science Initiative funding.

The Mini-Grants Program has four tracks: Track 1 Curriculum Development, Track 2 Research Development, Track 3 Summer Program Development, and Track 4 Academic Year Development.

Track 1 Summer Curriculum Development. Projects are expected to develop data science and analytics-related curricula, including developing new courses or modules. These courses and modules should benefit AUC students and be available AUC-wide. Proposals can request a stipend to be paid to the proposer for module development in the amount of \$1,000 and for new course development in the amount of \$3,000.

Track 2 Summer Research Development. Projects are expected to develop data science and analytics-related research. It is expected that the support will catalyze the growth in quality and quantity of research activity by faculty at the AUC, helping contribute to the AUC data science research enterprise. Pilot research projects are expected to be incorporated into applications for external funding by federal and state agencies or private foundations. Proposals can request a stipend to be paid to the proposer for research development in the amount of \$3,000.

Track 3 Summer Program Development. Proposals to develop and implement data science summer programs that address important challenges in data science may be submitted following consultation with the Director of the AUC Data Science Initiative. Requests made must justify budgets based on the project's scope or nature. Projects are expected to make a significant institutional impact and make an AUC contribution. The proposer's institution will match the award amount, and as such, the project should match the institution's identified interests. In addition to being reviewed by the AUC Data Science Initiative, proposers will give an oral pitch presentation to the AUC Consortium Chief Academic Officers (CAO). Requests made must justify budgets based on the project's scope or nature. Hardware and other equipment requests are ineligible. The award will be paid to the institution for program development in an amount of up to \$25,000, and the institution must waive indirect costs. Applicants are encouraged to discuss the budget section of their proposals with the Director of the AUC DSI well in advance of their application.

Track 4 Academic Year Development. Proposals may request buy-outs for courses releases to support time to develop and conduct data science research or data science education research. The proposal should address important challenges in data science and may be submitted following consultation with the Director of the AUC Data Science Initiative. The request for a course buy-out must be justified based on the project's scope or nature. The proposed work is expected to take place over one semester, form collaborations with others in the AUC, make a significant institutional impact, and make an AUC contribution. Proposals can request one course buy-out over one semester in the amount of \$12,000 to be paid to the institution, and the institution waives indirect costs. Proposals may be submitted following consultation with the Director of the AUC Data Science Initiative.

Eligibility Information

- Proposers must be faculty or staff at an AUC member institution or the AUC Robert Woodruff Library.
- For Track 1 and Track 2, there can only be one applicant per proposal.
- For Track 3, only one award per AUC member institution will be made each summer.
- For Track 4, the proposer must be a tenured, tenure-track, or full-time lecturer and must consult with their institution.

Those who accept the award agree to:

- Submit a report of results by the end of the funding period, which includes a summary of the project's nature and outcomes, including information of accomplishment, publications, curriculum material, and other specific deliverables and impacts.
- Participate in pre- and post-surveys.
- Participate in Initiative's training which provides awardees support and access to opportunities.
- Share the project results in a forum, symposium, or other venues in the AUC.
- Report any future publications or future funding that benefits from the work in the award to the AUC Data Science Initiative.
- Include appropriate acknowledgement of AUC Data Science Initiative support in any publication (including World Wide Web pages) or any material based on or developed under the project, in the following terms:

- “This material is based on work supported by the Atlanta University Center Data Science Initiative.”
- Orally acknowledge the AUC Data Science Initiative support using the language specified above during all news media interviews, including popular media such as radio, television, and news magazines.
- Make any data purchased available to the broader AUC community, if possible.
- Posting of the public award title and abstract on the AUC Data Science Initiative webpage and other media and materials.
- Inform the Director of the AUC Data Science Initiative if additional funding supports the proposed work.
- Track 3 Only: Complete and account for all budget expenditures by the end of the mini-grant period.

Due Dates

- For Tracks 1, 2, and 3, the proposal deadline is April 1. Awardees will be notified by May 15. The project start date should be May 15, and the end date is August 31. The report is due on August 31.
- For Track 4 fall semester mini-grant, the proposal deadline is April 1. Awardees will be notified by May 15. The project start date should be August 1, with an end date of December 31. The report is due on December 31.
- For Track 4 spring semester mini-grant, the proposal deadline is June 1. Awardees will be notified by July 31. The project start date should be January 1, with an end date of May 31. The report is due on May 31.

Application

To apply, input the following information here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/aucminigrant>

- **Cover Sheet** - Demographic information, including Track
- **Abstract (250 words)** - Narrative overview of the proposed project for a non-specialist audience and suitable for general publication, such as the AUC Data Science Initiative website. Clearly state why the work is important in data science and what will be accomplished.
- **Proposal Description (4 pages max)** - Include sections:
 - Objectives and Significance of the Project
 - Plan and Methodology
 - Project Outcomes, Deliverables, and Timeline
 - How the Project will Contribute to Data Science in the AUC
 - Dissemination Plan
 - Sustainability Plan
 - Project Assessment
- **References Cited** - Format may vary according to the norms of the discipline.
- **Curriculum Vitae (2 pages max)** - must be supplied
- **Track 3 Only: Proposal Budget (1 page max)** - Itemized statement of expected costs and a subtotal of these costs, along with a subtotal for the reassigned time if requested. Each cost

should be listed and briefly described, and justified. The budget description should include a statement that the proposer does not have other funds for the activity. Note that funds must be spent by the project end date.

Mini-Grant Review Criteria

Objectives and Significance of the Project: The proposal specifies the objectives, why the project is significant, and how the work will further data science-related research or curriculum development. Projects that address ethics and bias focusing on topics that impact Black America will be given preference.

Plan and Methodology: The proposal conveys a complete and well-thought-out plan for the project and describes all the activities. The proposal clearly articulates how the project will advance the applicant's research or teaching in data science.

Project Outcomes, Deliverables, and Timeline: The proposal clearly states the planned outcomes and deliverables, along with milestones, that are attainable in the project timeline. The proposal explains the steps needed to realize the project.

How the Project will Contribute to Data Science in the AUC: The proposal explains how the project will impact the AUC and assist in building data science.

Dissemination Plan: The proposal discusses what will be shared and with whom.

Sustainability: Plans for sustaining the project activities beyond the funding period, including institutionalization, should be addressed. Proposals should identify external funding to be pursued at a future date.

Project Assessment: The proposal describes how the project will be assessed to determine the progress as well as the degree of success achieved. The proposal explains why there is a high probability that the project will be achieved.

Budget: The budget (Track 3) or award request (Tracks 1, 2, and 4) is reasonable and is necessary to carry out the project activities.