

INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP 2026 INTERDISCIPLINARY SUMMER GRANT PROGRAM

The Mission of the Institute for Women's Leadership

The mission of the Institute for Women's Leadership at Marquette University is to advance women's leadership locally and globally through pioneering research, innovative programming, and collaborative engagement.

One strategic pillar of the Institute for Women's Leadership's activities is to *create an interdisciplinary and vibrant research environment that equitably and inclusively supports faculty and students as they engage in impactful, transformative scholarship on gender/sex.*

Goals of the Interdisciplinary Summer Grant Program

The goals of the Institute for Women's Leadership interdisciplinary summer grant program are: 1) to foster interdisciplinary research collaborations across the Marquette University community that further our understanding of gender and sex across the full range of human affairs, and 2) to stimulate the development of such research into larger extramurally funded projects.

The study of both the personal and social construct of gender, as well as biological conceptions of sex, is multidisciplinary and cross-disciplinary. All disciplines have their own intellectual and theoretical roots, histories, methodologies, and approaches to understanding gender and sex. It is also recognized that gender and sex intersect with race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, and other social categories. Interdisciplinary research that combines the perspectives from two or more disciplines has the potential to produce impactful, transformative research that leads to extramural funding.

Guidelines and Eligibility

The Interdisciplinary Summer Grant Program supports high-quality interdisciplinary research projects involving collaborators from two or more disciplinary backgrounds or traditions that advance our understanding of gender and/or sex in any domain of human endeavor and show promise of receiving extramural funding. Projects may be directed toward the gathering of primary data, the application of innovative approaches and analyses to provide novel insights from existing data, or creative endeavors that stimulate or strengthen competitive extramural grant applications. Funds will be awarded for one summer, must be used during that time, support original work and research performed for the IWL Summer Grant Program, and are nonrenewable.

Eligibility

- The principal investigator(s) must hold a faculty or staff appointment at Marquette University.
- Recipients of the award are expected to be employed at Marquette University during the duration of their project and will be returning for the next academic year (2026-2027).
- Projects that include two or more internal or external collaborators that represent diverse disciplinary backgrounds that differ from each other will be given priority. Exceptional projects on gender/sex that do not meet interdisciplinary qualifications will be considered if sufficient funds are available.
- Recipients of the award must meet with a team from the Institute for Women's Leadership and Office of Research and Sponsored Programs to explore the sustainability of their research within 12 months of receiving the funds.
- Recipients will be expected to give a talk on their research at an Institute for Women's Leadership event.
- All presentations and publications need to note IWL as a funding sponsor.
- If an Interdisciplinary Summer Grant was received previously, a listing of related activities and scholarly output must be submitted with the new grant proposal. Specifically, report on any publications, presentations (*i.e.*, academic conference, invited, departmental seminar, *etc.*), or related external grant submissions that resulted from the prior IWL grant. Prior grant outcomes will be considered when awarding subsequent grants.

Budget

Teams can ask up to \$11,000 for faculty summer stipends (max \$5,500 per individual stipend, and pace the standard hours expected for work for the stipend at Marquette; otherwise, less money can be requested and awarded; this can count towards a faculty's summer effort, and one's total summer effort available should be considered before applying for additional funding through IWL) and up to \$6,000 for research costs (*e.g.*, supplies or services, student assistants, travel). Maximum awards for each project will be \$17,000. Exceptional proposals with higher demand may be considered. Final awards are dependent on the availability of funds, and accepted proposals might not receive all requested funds.

Review of Proposals

Proposals will be reviewed by the IWL team and based on the following criteria:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ○ Scholarly Merit and Objectives | ○ Project Outcomes and Future Plans |
| ○ Significance and Impact | ○ Project Timeline and Feasibility |
| ○ Interdisciplinary Nature | ○ Investigator Qualification |
| ○ Methods, Approaches, or Protocol | |

Submission Deadline and Review Timeline

Action	Due Dates
Final Proposal*	February 6 th , 2026
Funding Decision	Following Spring Break in March 2026
Status Report	October 1, 2026

* For projects that involve human subjects, animals, or bio-hazardous materials must have approval from the University IRB, IACUC, or IBC before the award funding will be distributed.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARING YOUR INTERDISCIPLINARY SUMMER GRANT FUNDING APPLICATION

Submission Instructions and Deadline: Please complete the application by typing in the required information on the form (see page 5 of this document). Send the document electronically as **one Microsoft Word or PDF file laid out** in the order indicated below to iwl@marquette.edu no later than 4:00 PM CST on **February 6, 2026**. *The file should be saved as the last name of the Contact PI followed by "IWLgrantappS26" (e.g., "Edwards_IWLgrantappS26").*

If any portion of the application exceeds the provided page limits and other requirements, the application will be ineligible for consideration. Please use 11-point Arial font.

A complete IWL Interdisciplinary Summer Grant funding application consists of the following items in the order listed below. Please label each section accordingly.

- 1) **IWL Interdisciplinary Grant Cover Sheet(s)** [Provided as the last page of this application form].
- 2) **Abstract (separate page, 250 words)**
Provides a clear, concise description of the proposed project, its significance, impact, and interdisciplinary nature that a non-specialist would readily understand.
- 3) **Project Description (limit - 3 pages)**
The Project Description must be **no more than three single-spaced pages** using 1" margins and 11-point Arial font. The project description must be written in such a way that scholars outside of your immediate disciplines can readily understand it. Successful applications will include concrete goals with demonstrable high-impact consequences related to advancing gender/sex-related issues. Please use the below headings in order:
 - a) **Specific Research Objectives**
State and provide *scholarly research objectives*, and a literature-based rationale for those objectives.

b) Significance and Impact

Provide a short literature review and a clear and concise explanation of the projects significance and ability to advance the understanding of gender and/or sex in an area(s) of human endeavor. Focus on detailing what the significance and impact are of this research and how these goals will be achieved, noting how this project advances relevant fields, actions, disciplines, or non-academic concerns.

c) Methods, Approaches, or Protocol

Summarize the methods, approaches, or protocol used to achieve the research objectives.

d) Interdisciplinary Nature

Describe the interdisciplinary nature of the project including how the various disciplines represented by the two or more collaborators in the proposal contribute to the project.

e) Project Outcomes and Future Plans

Describe the intended outcomes of the project and how the project will stimulate or strengthen extramural funding application(s).

f) Project Timeline and Feasibility

4) References

Provide a bibliography of any references cited in the Project Description. This section is not included in the 3-page limit of the Project Description.

5) Project Budget and Budget Justification (limit – 1 page)

Each component of the budget request must be explained with the amount and total presented. Include as subheadings: personnel, equipment, supplies, travel, and other if applicable.

6) Brief Biography and Current Curriculum Vita (limit – 5 pages per individual).

7) Listing of related activities and scholarly output of previous IWL Summer Grants, if applicable.

8) List of other Marquette grants being applied for, both to support summer research and otherwise.