



Dissertation Research Awards

2026 Call for Applications

Proudly Presented by
APA Division 15

Division 15 (Educational Psychology) of the American Psychological Association invites graduate students who are members or affiliates of the division to apply for a dissertation research award. The purpose of the award is to provide financial support for educational psychology doctoral students preparing to collect their dissertation data.

Eligibility

Applicants must be current graduate students who are members or student affiliates of Division 15. Students from institutions large and small and from all domains relevant to the empirical study of educational psychology are encouraged to apply. Applicants must have submitted their dissertation proposal and received their committee's approval to conduct their dissertation work.

Award Description & Timeline

Up to two grants will be awarded. Each grant includes a \$1,500 stipend to be applied toward the student's dissertation research. Announcement of the grant award winners will be made online via Division 15's outlets and at our annual Business Meeting during the APA Convention.

How & When to Apply

The following information and materials are required for a completed application. Please follow the naming conventions for each pdf file as described within the application portal/survey.

1. Completion of the online application form that requests basic information about you, your institution, dissertation, anticipated degree, and committee.
2. A 4-5 page summary (1,500-word maximum) that addresses each of the following. One, it should justify the theoretical or practical problem(s) or purpose(s) addressed by your dissertation as well as the research question(s) and hypotheses. Two, it should describe the proposed methodology and the major planned analyses. Three, the statement should justify the importance of the project by explaining how findings from the project are likely to contribute to the field of educational psychology. Finally, it should briefly comment on how the Division 15 funding would be used to support the successful completion of the project. A detailed budget is not needed.
3. Your vita (4 pg. max).
4. Proof of current member or affiliate status in Division 15. For instance, a screenshot of the MyAPA webpage showing a “Div-015 Member Badge” or the Join APA Divisions webpage showing active membership in Division 15.
5. Verification from the chair of your dissertation (or other faculty member committee member) that a) you are a student in good standing within your doctoral program, and b) you have received formal approval from your dissertation committee to conduct the study outlined in their dissertation proposal. A brief memo on institutional letterhead that addresses these two points and is signed by its author (e.g., chair) is sufficient. A letter of recommendation is not required.

Electronically submit applications at this link: go.osu.edu/div15-diss-research-award. Submissions must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. (applicant local time) on October 9th, 2026.

If you have difficulty or questions, please contact Dissertation Awards Committee Chair Christopher A. Wolters (wolters.21@osu.edu).

Evaluation Process & Criteria

Applications are evaluated by members of the Dissertation Awards Committee. This evaluation centers on information from the summary statement such as the theoretical and practical significance of the proposed work, the match with Division 15 goals, and the quality of the proposed design and methodology.