**Thomas L. McKenzie Student Research Grant**

**School of Exercise and Nutritional Sciences**

**San Diego State University**

**Purpose:** This fund provides support to full- or part-time undergraduate or graduate students in the School of Exercise and Nutritional Sciences who are engaged in research on physical activity and/or eating behavior with faculty in the School of Exercise and Nutritional Sciences. Funds may be used for stipends or other expenses directly related to the research, such as equipment and supplies, student travel, and participant incentives.

The intent of this grant is to provide a transformational educational experience to undergraduate and graduate students. This grant program will foster the research environment in the School of Exercise and Nutritional Sciences (ENS) by pairing ENS faculty members with students. This aligns with SDSU goals to promote student success, increase transformational educational experiences, and foster the development and growth of excellence in research and creative endeavors.

Research must be done under School of ENS faculty supervision and be related to the study of physical activity/physical education/food behavior at the individual, community, or societal (policy) level. The intent of this grant is specifically to support research about physical activity and/or eating behavior. Primary consideration is given to the study of physical activity in natural environments such as schools, parks, community, and home settings (not laboratories) as it relates to disease prevention (not rehabilitation). Secondary consideration will be given to the study of human behavior in natural environments (not laboratories) in relation to nutritional decision-making and food selection.

**Available Funds:** Applications for $2,000 or less will be considered for funding.

Applications that involve underrepresented minority health behavior are a priority.

Funds can be used for (but are not limited to) the following: participant payment, equipment, supplies, travel, conference registration, and stipends.

**Eligibility:** This program is open to undergraduate and graduate students who are working with faculty members in the School of ENS. ENS faculty members are encouraged to recruit promising students and work with them to answer a specific research problem. Students applying for an award and the ENS faculty member directing the research experience will complete an application collaboratively.

**Criteria:** Proposals will be judged on: (a) potential for the research to provide an experience that fosters student achievement in research-related activities; (b) overall quality of the project description; (c) potential for the study to result in a presentation, publication, and/or external grant submission; and (d) likelihood of successfully completing the project.

The student’s role in the project must be clearly defined and should include data collection (not just analysis of previously collected data). The proposed outlet for the completed research should be defined (e.g., presentations at the Student Research Symposium, state, regional, or national conferences; publications; future grants [if the project includes collection of pilot data]).

The proposal review panel will consist of the Director of the School of ENS and at least two faculty members with expertise in behavioral research appointed by the Director of the School of ENS. Faculty whose students receive awards during the current academic year may be asked to serve on the proposal review panel for the next round of funding.

**Proposal format:** Proposals should be no more than three pages in length and use 11-point font or greater. The final page (page 4) should exclusively be the budget, in tabular format, followed by a brief budget justification.

**Application deadline:** Rolling deadline.

Funding will be available immediately.

Email proposals with “Thomas L. McKenzie Student Research Awards” in the subject line to the Director of the School of Exercise and Nutritional Sciences (Dr. Mahar) [mmahar@sdsu.edu](mailto:mmahar@sdsu.edu). Funding decisions will be announced after the review committee has had time to review the application.

Note students are responsible for submitting a thank you letter before funds will be released. The letter should be addressed to Dr. Thom McKenzie and delivered to Dr. Matthew Mahar, Director of the School of Exercise and Nutritional Sciences. The letter can be electronic or handwritten and should indicate the topic of the grant and the anticipated benefit the student will receive from the grant.

Note that the student and faculty member are responsible for submitting a 1-page report summary abstract (Title, Purpose, Methods, Results, Conclusion) at the completion of the project. This summary may be posted on the ENS website as a means to publicize and promote research experiences in the School of ENS. The student is responsible for producing a poster (electronic version required) that may be displayed on the ENS website and in the ENS hallway.

**The application and budget should use the following template.**

**Thomas L. McKenzie Student Research Grant**

**School of Exercise and Nutritional Sciences**

**Application**

**Name of student:**

**Student Email Address:**

**Degree program:** 🞏 BS Foods and Nutrition

🞏 BS Kinesiology – Exercise Science Generalist

🞏 BS Kinesiology – Fitness Specialist

🞏 BS Kinesiology – Pre-Physical Therapy

🞏 MS Athletic Training

🞏 MS Food Science

🞏 MS Nutritional Sciences

🞏 MS Exercise Physiology

🞏 MS Exercise Physiology and MS Nutritional Sciences

🞏 Other degree program (specify): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Student Status:**

🞏 Freshman 🞏 Sophomore 🞏 Junior 🞏 Senior 🞏 Graduate Student

**Name of faculty mentor:**

**Date of proposal submission:**

**Title of the proposal:**

**Description of research project** (include background/significance; specific aims and related hypotheses; and study methodology):

**Background / Significance** (maximum 150 words):

**Specific Aims and Related Hypotheses:**

**Study Methodology** (maximum 500 words):

**Timeline for Research Project** (include anticipated start date and anticipated end date; project should be completed within one or two semesters; justification for longer duration should be included)**:**

Project timelines help proposal reviewers understand when specific tasks will be done. Below is an example of a project timeline that can be used (list tasks appropriate for the proposal in the left column and shade or check the month you propose to conduct that specific task in the other columns).

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|  | PROJECT YEAR | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Project tasks | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec |
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**Projected outlet for completed project** (e.g., where work is to be presented and/or submitted for publication):

**Budget (maximum amount $2,000):**

Allowable expenses include: equipment, supplies, travel for data collection, participant incentives, student stipend.

Student stipends are not allowable if student is also receiving academic credit for the research project (such as in a Special Study).

Please provide a description of how the budget will be spent in the budget table below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Amount** |
| **Equipment** (list equipment needed that is essential for conducting the research project. Quotes for equipment must be included in an appendix): | $ |
| **Supplies** (Supplies are consumable materials and small pieces of equipment with a useful life less than one year): | $ |
| **Travel** (Travel required to conduct the research project. Travel to a professional meeting to present the results will be considered of secondary importance, relative to travel to complete the research project. Current approved mileage reimbursement rate effective January 1, 2024 = $.67 per mile): | $ |
| **Stipend (If applicable)** (Maximum pay rate is $20/hour): | $ |
| **Participant Incentives** (Incentives to individuals or organizations to encourage participation in the research project): | $ |
| **Other (Please specify):** | $ |
| **TOTAL (cannot exceed ~$2,000)** | $ |

**Budget Justification:** include line by line justification for each item, including source or quote, if appropriate.