

Call for Proposals

2025-2026 Clemson University Doctoral Dissertation Completion Grants

The Clemson University Dissertation Completion grant program is a collaborative effort between the Office of the Sr. Vice President for Research and the Dean of the Graduate School. These grants are intended to decrease time to degree and to support higher quality outcomes among students who are within six months of graduation where a contribution of competitive resources will make a significant difference.

Eligibility:

Completion grants are intended for graduate students who have successfully advanced to candidacy (completed comprehensive exams, have an approved dissertation proposal, and have completed other degree requirements). In addition, to be eligible for this program, the doctoral candidate:

- Must commit to completion of the dissertation in time for **December 2025, May 2026, or August 2026** commencement;
- Should understand that the purpose of this award is to support students in the final semester of their doctoral work. This award is intended to be terminal support from Clemson University to the applicant;
- Must be in good standing academically;
- Must be present in the United States for the duration of the award;
- Must be eligible to hold a graduate assistantship, including being prepared to register for the appropriate number of credit hours per supported semester;
- May not be employed outside Clemson University (full- or part-time);
- May not perform ANY work for the university other than the research directly involved in completing the dissertation during the time the award is in place; and
- Must have his/her adviser submit the request, signifying the adviser's support for the proposal and endorsing the proposition that the student will complete all graduation requirements for December 2025, May 2026, or August 2026 graduation.

Special considerations for applicants:

- Preference will be given to students who are not currently supported in other ways (e.g., research assistantship, fellowship, or other support from US or international organizations and institutions)
- Any stipend support offered by this program is standardized and may be lower than what some departments offer for GTA/GRA appointments. These are not negotiable. If a faculty member or department wishes to provide supplemental funds to support the student, **departments should arrange a one-time payment to the student through the grants section of the GS61 database.**
- Funds are not to be used to purchase computers, laptops or servers (or components, when assembled, to create a CPU or server); this equipment should be provided to students using departmental or personal funds. Requests for specialized computer software, peripherals or other specialized computer-related equipment are acceptable **only under unusual circumstances and with clear justification**. Any items purchased from these funds must remain the property of Clemson University after the student graduates.

- Funds are generally not to be used to support travel. These requests should typically utilize other sources of funds such as GSG Travel Grants, or college, department, or grant funds.

Questions? Please feel free to contact us at VPR@clemson.edu with your questions. Please see the FAQ for commonly asked questions.

Application Process and Timeline:

To apply for this completion grant program, the faculty advisor and the doctoral candidate must submit a joint application. We ask you to submit your application providing all the information requested in the attached PDF/Word document. Please send completed forms and other requested materials as a single PDF to VPR@clemson.edu.

Please ensure the budget justification and the dissertation description include your full name.

Important Dates:

May 12, 2025 (5 pm): Applications due via email to VPR@clemson.edu (This is Monday, May 12, 2025)

July (early) 2025 Announcement of 2025-2026 awards made

Middle of July 2025 Return Letters of acceptance

August 2025 Awards funded – processed through the Grad School