

AEJMC EMERGING SCHOLARS

2025 RESEARCH & TEACHING GRANTS

Proposal Deadline:
October 1, 2025

The **2026 AEJMC Emerging Scholars Program** will award \$3,500 research and teaching grants to up to two research or teaching proposals to encourage innovative and timely projects in journalism and mass communication. AEJMC members may submit proposals for these grants by Oct. 1, and selections will be announced by early January 2026. **Deadline for submitting proposals is Oct. 1, 5:00 P.M. Eastern Time.**

The AEJMC Emerging Scholars Program is designed to develop and nurture JMC teachers and researchers by fostering an intellectually stimulating environment. This program's mission is to identify, encourage and recognize some of AEJMC's most promising emerging scholars by providing funding for research or teaching projects. If requested, proposals selected for funding will be matched with a recognized scholar to serve as a mentor throughout the project. The mentor would serve as a resource and sounding board for the project. Proposals should outline an individual's own significant research or teaching project. Proposals may also be submitted by a research team, which would share the award amount if selected.

AEJMC will showcase initial results from 2026 grants during a session at AEJMC's 2026 conference in New Orleans. In addition to the \$3,500 grant, AEJMC will also provide \$500 for each selected proposal to assist with travel expenses to the conference.

PROPOSAL CRITERIA

- The proposed topic should center on Journalism and Mass Communication and related disciplines. Topics in related disciplines should also include a central element within mass communication.
- **Applicants must be current AEJMC faculty members.** Check that your membership status in the AEJMC database is as a faculty member, not graduate student, before you submit your proposal. Proposals submitted by non-members or members whose memberships are not current will be eliminated from the competition.
- Only one proposal per person will be considered. (If you submit as part of a team, that is the only proposal you may submit.)
- The program will not provide support for dissertation research.
- Graduate or undergraduate students are not eligible for this program.
- The program is looking for proposals from junior faculty members teaching full-time who have not yet achieved tenure, who are likely at the assistant professor level. Media professionals who have recently transitioned to full-time work in the academy are also welcomed to apply.
- Proposals for teaching projects must include a research component or be research-based. This research component must be specifically explained in the proposal.
- For the proposals selected, a five-page interim report is due to AEJMC by July 15, 2026, and will be part of a conference session. Applicants should submit proposals for projects on which they will be able to make significant progress by that time. Projects must be completed by Feb. 1, 2027.

APPLICATION PROCESS

All application materials should be emailed as one attachment to Lillian Coleman at lillian@aejmc.org (attachment MUST have a document suffix, such as .doc, .docx or .pdf). **All material should come in ONE file** in the order outlined here. Incomplete proposals will NOT be reviewed.

Applications should contain five sections, which should include the following materials:

- I. A cover sheet that lists:** (a) name, address, telephone number, email address; (b) a 200-word bio of applicant; and (c) a 300-word abstract of project.
- II. A proposal written** for a general mass communication scholarly audience, of no more than 1,500 words (excluding endnotes/references) describing the project, which must include: (a) scope and purpose of project; (b) how the project will expand knowledge; (c) detailed description of the project, including methods, survey information (if used), etc.; (d) current status and timeline for completion; (e) anticipated outcomes; (f) a list of potential publication venues for the finished project. (Proposals that exceed this word count will NOT be reviewed.)
- III. A one-page, detailed budget** that fully explains the expenses necessary to complete the project. Maximum grant amount is \$3,500. Funds may not be used for equipment, software, PI stipend, university indirect costs or conference travel. If project will cost more than the maximum grant amount, explain where you will get the remaining funds to complete the project.
- IV. One letter of support** from your immediate supervisor. For proposals with more than one author: if co-authors are in same department at the same school, one support letter is sufficient, but if co-authors are in different departments at the same school or at different colleges/universities, each must have separate letter of support.
- V. A three-page vita** — edit it so it is only three pages. If project has more than one author, each author must submit a three-page vita.

All proposals will undergo peer review by JMC scholars. After a two-stage judging process, applicants will be notified of the status of their proposals by early January 2026. Questions should be directed to Lillian Coleman at lillian@aejmc.org.