

SIGMA THETA TAU INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY OF NURSING
BETA DELTA CHAPTER-AT-LARGE

Research grants are available for funding of research projects for Beta Delta members. Awards may be given annually up to the approved budgeted amount. Awards are presented in the Fall and Spring. If no meritorious research applications are received, funds will be retained for subsequent review cycles.

Processing the Funds

- I. The Finance Committee
 - A. Recommends funds in budget from the general fund for awarding research grants.
 - B. The Treasurer forwards checks to the Chair of the Research Grants Committee

- II. The Research Committee
 - A. Conducts a review of the proposals using small grant review criteria. Chair does not vote on proposals.
 - B. Recommends the awards of grants and allocation of funds to Board of Directors.
 - C. Monitors fund usage by grant recipients.
 - D. Notifies applicants of outcomes of review and invites recipients of research grants to attend meeting to receive award.

- III. Board of Directors (BOD)
 - A. Approves the budgeted funds for research grants.
 - B. Approves the recommendations of the Research Committee and records in BOD minutes
 - C. Announces the Research Award Program through the chapter web page and Newsletters.

Criteria

- I. **Eligibility:**
 - A. Registered nurse.
 - B. Baccalaureate or higher degree in nursing.
 - C. Active membership in Beta Delta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau
 - D. Proposed research is relevant to nursing.
 - E. Proposal is developed to the extent that data collection can begin.
 - F. Documentation of Institutional Review Board Application or Approval.
 - G. Beginning researcher is defined as a nurse who has no more than three research-based publications in refereed journals and/or has received as principal investigator, no more than \$15,000 in extramural funding.

H. Experienced researcher is defined as a nurse who has more than three research-based journal/publications and/or has received more than \$15,000 as principal investigator in research funding.

II. Categories of Research Grant Awards:

- A. Beginning researcher..... Up to \$700.00
- B. Experienced researcher\$500.00-\$1000
- C. Thesis.....Up to \$500
- D. DissertationUp to \$1000

III. Funds for the grant may not be used to cover expenses incurred prior to the funding date.

Stipulations of Award

I. The recipient of the awards agrees to:

- A. Acknowledge funding from Beta Delta Chapter in publications and presentations.
 - B. Return any unused funds to the current chapter president by deadlines in proposals.
 - C. Disseminate research findings through presentations and publications.
 - D. Submit an abstract to the newsletter editor of Beta Delta Chapter.
 - E. Submit report on completion of study to the Research Grants Committee Chair.
 - F. Presents findings at a local, regional, or international Sigma Theta Tau meeting.
- II. Funds may not be used for travel to present findings or for purchase of equipment. Purchase of expendable supplies and rental equipment is allowed.
- III. When the quality of several submitted research proposals is equal, awards will be distributed across the membership of Beta Delta Chapter to assure fair representation of all participating institutions.

Application Process

- I. **One electronic** copy of the application for funding are to be submitted to the Research Grant Committee Chair. Applications are available on the Beta Delta web site.
- II. The research grant application must include:
- A. Cover letter that addresses eligibility criteria, identification of grant category and previous Beta Delta/Sigma Theta activities.
 - B. Abstract (limited to 250 words)
 - C. Body of Proposal (limited to 7 pages)
 - a. Purpose of the Study – state clearly the purpose of the study including how the project makes an original contribution to nursing.

- b. Significance – sketch the background of your proposal. Critically evaluate existing knowledge. Specify the gaps which the project is intended to fill. State concisely the importance of the research in terms of the contribution to nursing and potential for leading to further research methodology or theory development.
- c. Specific Aims/Hypothesis/Research Questions – State concisely and realistically what the research described is intended to accomplish and/or what hypothesis(es) or research questions will be tested.
- d. Theoretical/Conceptual Framework or Rationale – Summarize the theoretical framework or rationale as appropriate, addressing the relationship between the specific aims, the literature, key concepts, variables and instruments.
- e. Literature Review – Literature may be reviewed as a separate section or as part of background, significance and/or conceptual framework. Include current literature that is directly pertinent to the project and that assists in clarification of purposes and procedures.
- f. Method – Discuss in detail the methodological approach, the research design and the procedure to be used to accomplish the specific aims. Describe new methodology. Discuss potential difficulties and limitations of the proposed procedures and alternative approaches to achieve the aims.
 - 1. Subjects and setting: Describe the target population and characteristics of the subjects. Include the number of subjects, the rationale for sample size the sampling frame, the sampling procedure and the setting for data collection.
 - 2. Apparatus and/or instruments: Report the specific characteristics of the instruments, including their reliability, validity, and/or sensitivity. Address how that tool will be used. The instrument(s) (e.g. questionnaires or data collection tools) must be included in an appendix.
 - 3. Procedure: Describe the design and the procedure to be used for the proposed data collection. Specify what kinds of data you expect to obtain. Give details of client/subject selection and intervention if one is involved. If appropriate, discuss potential problems with and/or limitation of the procedures. Discuss in detail research that may be that may be hazardous to the subjects. Indicate precautions to be exercised. Include orientation plan for data collectors if appropriate.
 - 4. Plan for Data Management: Data must be adequately described and appropriate to specific aims/hypothesis/research question.

5. Describe the limitations of the study including those related to design and methods.
 6. Human Subjects or Animal Use: Provide a statement of the human's rights and risk. Include a copy of the IRB approval letter and a copy of the consent form in the appendices. If IRB approval is pending at the time the proposal is submitted, the applicant should indicate that it is still pending. If funding is approved, a copy of the IRB letter must be received before funds are dispersed.
 7. Time-Line: Provide a time-line that specifies the timing of the main steps of the investigation. Justify that project can be completed within the estimated time frame.
 8. References (not included in 7 page limit)
- D. Budget Application. Include amount and justification for each budget line item.
 - E. Biographical Sketch (limited to 2 pages). Needed only for the following as applicable: principal investigator, co-investigator(s), advisor (if a student), and consultant.
 - F. Letter from research advisor/committee (if thesis or dissertation) attesting that the proposed study has been approved.
 - G. Institutional Review Board application/approval letter by the institutional review board of the institution(s) where the data collection will occur.

EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

The proposals will be rated using a score of 1 to 5 with 1 being perfect.

- A. Significance to nursing
- B. Scientific merit
- C. Appropriateness of methodology
- D. Qualifications of the investigator (research team) to conduct study
- E. Human subjects protection issues
- F. Appropriate budget and time frame