

CAAS department heads,

The college has two new Presidential Doctoral Research Fellowships (PDRF) for students beginning a PhD program in Fall of 2024. Fall of 2024 will be the first year of an open application process for PDRF's within CAAS. Applications must be submitted by the department head to the Associate Dean for Research by January 26, 2024, after which award decisions will be made by Dean White.

All departments are permitted one applicant for a PDRF award cycle.

The Office of Research has clarified that the PDRF is a scholarship that is added to the normal assistantship and is not to be used for labor (RA or TA).

The college will accept 1 proposal per department. Please review the [PDRF guidebook](#), which includes important information about the structure and expectations of these agreements.

The following will be considered when evaluating proposals:

1. Non-technical summary – Describe the research project in terms non-scientists can understand.
2. Student Mentoring Plan – Describe how the faculty member will ensure the success of the graduate student.
 - a. If the departmental request includes an Assistant or Associate Professor as the primary advisor, a Faculty Mentoring/Success Plan developed in collaboration with the department head is also required.
3. Student Professional Development Plan – What resources will be made available for the graduate student to gain experiences and training beyond the technical training of the program in which they participate? E.g., funding to attend professional meetings, promote professional skills development, or foster industry and/or agency connections.
4. Commitment to four years of project funding to cover a minimum base stipend of \$24,000 and health insurance for the student. With the \$10,000 PDRF award, this makes the stipend for CAAS PDRF scholars a minimum of \$34,000 each year.
5. Recruiting for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – Is the graduate student from an underserved community?

Applications (limited to three single spaced pages, 12-point font) must be submitted to Greg Cuomo (greg.cuomo@usu.edu) by January 26, 2024.

Note: If a faculty member is awarded a PDRF based on a two-year grant (without the full four years of funding currently in place), reapplies for funding for the graduate student, and isn't funded, the college will provide one year of funding at the student's current stipend rate as a 'safety net' while the faculty member secures additional funding for the student may continue in their program.