



ACVS Foundation Research Grant Programs

www.acvsfoundation.org/research-grants

Instructions and Tips: ACVS Foundation Research Grant Application

Contents

Submitting an ACVS Foundation Research Grant Application.....	2
ACVS Foundation Research Grant Programs	2
ACVS Foundation Grant Guidelines	3
The Online Application (An Overview).....	4
The Submission Process.....	6
Reference Guide: Insights from the ACVS Research Committee.....	7
Grant Application Review Criteria	12
Grant Writing Resources.....	13

Submitting an ACVS Foundation Research Grant Application

ACVS Foundation Research Grant Programs

Funding for surgery-related clinical and basic research is available through the ACVS Foundation Research Grant Programs. All applications are submitted online and reviewed by the ACVS Research Committee using a detailed set of review criteria. The Research Committee compiles an evaluative ranking of the applications and recommends the top research proposals to the ACVS Board of Regents (BOR). Recommendations approved by the BOR are then forwarded to the ACVS Foundation for disbursement of funds.

Surgery Resident Research Grant Program

- Grants are only available to surgery residents in the first two years at an ACVS registered residency training program. The research project is expected to be completed by the end of residency.
- The resident must substantially participate in developing and writing the application.
- The resident must submit the application in their name and include required details for the Diplomate supervisor and any co-investigator(s).
- Residents should apply during their first two years, as the project should be completed by the end of their training.
- Funding up to \$20,000 per grant is available.
- Grantees are required to submit an annual progress report.

Diplomate Research Grant Program

This program is designed to fund clinically oriented projects that utilize either clinical case material or experimental subjects to address a clinically oriented surgical problem.

- Only ACVS Diplomates are eligible to apply.
- Funding up to \$20,000 per grant is available.
- Grantees are required to submit an annual progress report.

Progress Reports

The ACVS Foundation requires grantees to submit an ACVS Foundation Sponsored Research Annual Progress Report each year until the Research Committee notifies the grantee that no further reports are required. Information to report includes accomplishments of the project; manuscripts and publications; and actual or planned challenges. Submit the annual report as an email attachment to tdelaney@acvs.org.

Failure to submit the progress report on time or grants with inadequate progress will make the principal investigator or, for Surgery Residency Grants, the Diplomate supervisor and the resident ineligible for ACVS Foundation grants for a period of five years.

ACVS Foundation Grant Guidelines

All research grant applications must be submitted using the ACVS online submission system, which can be accessed via the ACVS website at <https://www.acvs.org/foundation/research-grants/application/>.

Applications must be received through the ACVS online submission system by January 15 at 11:59 pm (ET). Any other electronic format or paper copy of the application will not be accepted. Only complete applications will be considered for review. Only one application will be considered from each principal investigator per funding cycle. Similar or identical grants cannot be submitted to multiple ACVS grant programs in the same year.

Research grant funds may only be used for direct expenses of the project. Travel, consultative fees, publication fees, personnel costs, institutional overhead, or other indirect expenses will not be funded by the ACVS Foundation grant programs.

Partial funding of a project is possible, provided there is appropriate recognition of the ACVS Foundation's contribution in all resulting publications and presentations, and that full funding is obtained within six months of the date on the award notification letter. **Payment will be initiated when the balance of funding has been secured, and documentation thereof is provided to the chair of the ACVS Research Committee. If the investigator fails to obtain full funding within six months, the award will be withdrawn.**

There is one application process for the ACVS Foundation grant programs. At the beginning of the submission process, you will be prompted to select a submission type as either Surgery Resident Research or Diplomate Research. Be sure that you complete the information that is applicable to the specific grant program for which you are applying.

The online grant application submission limits access to one person, therefore the Diplomate/resident/PhD student (primary investigator) should take the responsibility of submitting the application.

Surgery Resident Research Grants are only available to surgery residents in the first two years at an ACVS registered residency training program, with the expectation that the project will be completed by the end of residency. The resident must submit the application in their name and include required details for the Diplomate supervisor and any co-investigator(s). The person submitting the grant (the applicant) will receive all correspondence regarding the submission.

Several months are required for processing. The applicant will be notified of a decision by May 1. An educational critique of the application will be sent to all applicants.

If approved for a grant, a Memorandum of Agreement must be completed by the applicant's institution, or a non-institutional Diplomate, and returned to the ACVS Foundation office. Additionally, an approved Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) Form for all funded applications involving animals protected by the Animal Welfare Act must be received by the ACVS Foundation office prior to the release of funds. These forms may be submitted to the ACVS Foundation (foundation@acvs.org) electronically in PDF format. It is expected that, within one year of completing the project, a manuscript will be submitted to a refereed journal, preferably *Veterinary Surgery*, with appropriate recognition of the ACVS Foundation's support.

There are seven sections (A-G) within the online application. You may save your submission at any point in the process and return later to complete the submission. You must complete all required fields in a section in order to save your progress in that section. You may edit your completed submission any time before the deadline: January 15 at 11:59 pm (ET).

The Online Application (An Overview)

The recommended browsers for grant application submission are Firefox and Internet Explorer. During the application process, you will be required to upload six documents in various sections of the application so as to ensure all mandatory documents are submitted. It is best practice to complete the forms (and save as PDFs) prior to starting the online application. Documents 2 – 5 and the proposal format and content instructions can be downloaded from www.acvs.org/foundation/research-grants/application. Be sure to save the PDFs to your local hard drive to readily upload into the application and keep a copy for your records.

- 1) Research Grant Application Workshop CE certificate (dated no later than January 8)
- 2) Integrity Statement Form
- 3) Biographical Sketch Form
- 4) Signatures Form
- 5) Budget Form
- 6) Proposal (refer to the [Proposal Format and Content Instructions](#))

Prior to applying, view the [Research Grant Application Workshop](#) which focuses on the preparation of research grant proposals and provides guidance to aid in the application process. This free one-hour webinar offers one CE credit. The CE certificate of completed training for the Research Grant Application Workshop can be used for the current year application as well as the next two application cycles. **The CE certificate must be dated no later than January 8, one week prior to the deadline.**

Section A: Cover Page

- Submission type
- Title
- Short Abstract: You may copy and paste your abstract into this section or type it directly into the box. **Note: If you are using Firefox as your browser, use CTRL+V to paste your short abstract text.** Abstract your proposed research and outline objectives, clinical relevance, and methods. **The abstract must be a maximum of 250 words.** Do a word count to ensure that the abstract does not exceed 250 words prior to saving and continuing. The preferred format is single-spaced, in 10–12point Calibri, Times New Roman, or Arial type font.
- Resubmission of proposal
- Project start and end dates
- Total budget and amount requested
- Name and address of all performance sites
- Indicate if the research grant involves animals protected by the “Animal Welfare Act.”
- Institutional ID Number (if applicable)
- Upload completed Integrity Statement
- Upload the Grant Application Workshop CE certificate
- Investigator’s name and degree. Email addresses are also required for the surgery resident, Diplomate supervisor, or principal investigator.

Section B: Applicant Organization

- Name of applicant organization
- Type of organization: federal, state, local, or other (specify)
- Institution contact for the Memorandum of Agreement
- Name of the institution to which the check is made payable and the address to which the check should be sent
- If applicable, upload documents required by the Applicant Organization (e.g., institution’s administrative approval letter)

Section C: Biographical Sketch / Signatures

In this section, you are required to upload two files:

- (Biographical Sketch: A document containing biographical information for all investigators (Diplomate principal investigator or Diplomate supervisor, resident, and co-investigators).
- Investigators' Signatures: Signatures are required from all investigators involved in the project. Obtain the required signatures and upload a scanned copy, PDF, or other image file. Electronic signatures are not acceptable.

Section D: Previous and Current Research Support

- Previous funding: For all ACVS Foundation Grants which the investigators have received for the past five years, include the title of the grant; investigator's name; investigator's position in the grant (e.g., principal investigator, co-investigator); dollar amount; percentage effort; and all publications resulting from the grants. (Limited to 3,000 characters.)
- For current and pending funding: Include the title of the grant; investigator's name; investigator's position in the grant (e.g., principal investigator, co-investigator); funding source; dollar amount; percentage effort; any overlap with current application; and publications resulting from any grant listed. (Limited to 3,000 characters.)

Section E: Budget

Upload the "Detailed Budget for a 12-Month Period" form (PDF format)

- The budget must include:
 - Equipment (description and cost for each item over \$100)
 - Supplies (description and cost by group or category only)
 - Animals (cost of animal purchase and costs for care including board and transportation)
 - Miscellaneous Expenses (do not include travel, consultation fees, publication fees, or personnel salaries/costs and institutional overhead). **ACVS Foundation grant funds are restricted to the project's direct expenses only.**
 - Total Budget
 - Amount Requested of the ACVS Foundation
 - Detailed Budget Justification
- Other Available Support (source and amount)
- Other Requested Support (other requested support for the project including source, amount, notification date)

Section F: Facilities and Equipment

- Description of facilities and equipment for use in the project

Section G: Research Proposal Information

- **The proposal, followed by the other mandatory documents, must be uploaded as a single PDF.** There is no form document for the proposal. You must adhere to the required formatting and content as specified in the [Proposal Format and Content Instructions](#), which can be downloaded from www.acvs.org/foundation/research-grants/application.

The Submission Process

All Diplomates and residents have website logins and passwords. If you do not know your login or password, please use the “Forgot your password” option, and your login and password will be emailed to you.

Required fields are indicated by a red asterisk after the field name. The submission deadline is January 15 at 11:59 pm (ET).

To begin the application process:

- 1) Go to <http://www.acvs.org/submissions>.
- 2) Enter username and password. These are the same as your ACVS website login and password.
- 3) Under “Grant Application: ACVS Foundation Research Grants; Subcollection: Research Grant Submissions,” click on “Create New Grant Application.”
- 4) Begin completing the application and provide the information as required. See Required Information to Enter Online.
- 5) **Important:** Click on “Save and Continue” after each section.
- 6) **To save your work within any section and continue the submission process later**, ensure that all required fields have been completed within the section, click on “Save and Continue,” click on the ACVS logo (top left), and choose “Log Out” (top right). See “To resume the submission process or to edit your application” instructions.
- 7) **If you have provided all required information**, the “Submit My Grant” section will appear as a tab under “Review My Submission.” Click on “Submit My Grant.” The “Completed application” (excluding uploaded documents) can be printed.

To resume the submission process or to edit your application:

- 1) Go to <http://www.acvs.org/submissions>.
- 2) Enter username and password. These are the same as your ACVS website login and password.
- 3) The submittal information will appear.
- 4) Click on Details next to Submission Type “Incomplete.”
- 5) Click on the section that you need to work on and continue completing the application.
- 6) **To save your work within any section and continue the submission process later**, ensure that all required fields have been completed within the section, click on “Save and Continue,” click on the ACVS logo (top left), and choose “Log Out” (top right). See “To resume the submission process or to edit your application” instructions.
- 7) **If you have provided all required information**, the “Submit My Grant” section will appear as a tab under “Review My Submission.” Click on “Submit My Grant.” The “Completed application” (excluding uploaded documents) can be printed.

If you have any questions, contact Tracey Delaney at tdelaney@acvs.org or (301) 916-0200 x101.

ACVS Foundation Research Grant Programs

Reference Guide: Insights from the ACVS Research Committee

This reference guide has been prepared to give informal, clarifying information on selected parts of the ACVS Foundation grant funding application process that may be misunderstood or poorly addressed by applicants. Common mistakes made by applicants in the proposal submission often detract from its quality and subsequently increase the likelihood of the application scoring poorly during the review process.

The comments have been assembled by the ACVS Research Committee to clarify for inexperienced investigators some of the jargon and expectations of reviewers for research applications submitted for funding through the ACVS Foundation. Applicants are encouraged to begin preparing applications early and allow time to “fine tune” the application into a clear, precise, and well-organized document that will allow reviewers to understand fully, the scientific merit and importance of the project being proposed.

Important note: There is nothing worse than a lack of flow and the presence of syntax errors that reflect haste and cut-and-paste efforts. It is hard to justify funding a research study that is represented by a poorly constructed grant application with text that shows a lack of care that goes beyond typographical errors. Care relates to everything from the layout of the idea, the organization of the thought process, and the work to be done. Taking care in your writing is training your mind to be careful in everything you do.

Getting Started on the ACVS Foundation Grant Application

Research ideas and projects arise from the need to advance areas of science. Research is aimed at answering fundamental questions surrounding a particular subject or area. Arriving at a fundamental research question is the first step in formulating ideas on how to best answer the question. Some questions are obvious and the approach to answering them may also be obvious. Other questions require more extensive thought to arrive at the question to be answered *and* the best approach to take to be able to answer it. Regardless, an extensive literature review is the first step in formulating a research question that has not been previously answered. **If you do not read history, you may be attempting to repeat history.** It is also important at this early stage of preparation to consider the ultimate impact that finding an answer to the research question will have. There are limited resources devoted to research. One role of the ACVS Research Committee is to decide which applications are likely to have an impact on the field and on animal welfare in general. Impact is one part of an application that should be clearly stated, but not overstated. The goal of any application is to convince the Research Committee that completion of the work will have a benefit to the mission of ACVS. The mission of the ACVS Foundation is *to support the advancement of surgical care of all animals.*

Another critical step early in the proposal preparation period is to identify the **collaborative team** who would be best suited to support the study. Consider carefully whether members of the team have prior experience using the techniques in the study, whether the team has adequate expertise in study design and statistical analysis. It is not unusual to have multiple investigators on a study to strengthen the experimental approach to give the study the best chance at successful completion.

Finally, to demonstrate to the Research Committee a reasonable likelihood of successful completion of the study, it is beneficial to demonstrate in **preliminary data** that the team can perform the techniques proposed in the grant application. Without prior funding, this can be challenging; however, considering creative ways to demonstrate the investigators have the ability to perform the study can greatly strengthen the application.

The online application consists of several sections as described below.

Section A: Cover Page (Application Overview)

Short Abstract:

The short abstract is a critical part of the application. Reviewers will often read this first and it cannot be overstated that a clear perspective and interest in the application should be gained from reading the abstract. The abstract and first page (hypotheses and specific aims) are critical to capturing their attention and imagination.

The abstract should include statements regarding the current knowledge gap (the research question), objectives, specific aims and hypotheses, methods, as well as the expected outcomes and impact of the proposed research.

Indicate if the research grant involves animals protected by the “Animal Welfare Act.”

Warm-blooded vertebrate animals used in biomedical research are protected by the Animal Welfare Act. The use of cadaver materials for biomedical research or testing is not.

Section B: Applicant Organization

This information is utilized following grant awards. The section is self-explanatory and necessary personnel vary from institution to institution and from academic to private practice investigators.

Section C: Biographical

This form must be completed and uploaded by all applicants. It is generally self-explanatory; however, the following are commonly misinterpreted or misstated on applications.

A: Location:

This is the geographic/institutional location of the investigator. To consider the logistical feasibility of an application, this information is necessary for the Research Committee to understand the role of each investigator, based on where the proposed work will be performed by each investigator.

E: Role in Proposed Project Including Time Commitment (be specific):

It is important to clearly state the role of each investigator in the project. **The time commitment is the time each investigator will commit to this project as a percentage of their other professional time commitments. Time commitment is not the percentage of the project for which each investigator is responsible.** Total professional effort cannot exceed 100%. For residents, effort should be feasible given clinical commitments of their residency.

Section D: Previous and Current Research Support

For residents and investigators early in their careers, it is generally understood by reviewers that there may not be any previous or current research support.

Section E: Budget

The budget is a required document upload. A detailed and accurate budget is one way for the applicant to show reviewers that the project has been well planned and contingencies have been considered.

Justification of the budget is an opportunity for the applicant to clarify any budgeted expenses whose relevance to the project may not be obvious.

- Developing a budget is a huge time commitment. However, when reviewers see a detailed and thoughtful budget it means that you, as a researcher, have diligently evaluated what you are going to need and have thought through each step of your research plan.

Other Available Support:

These are other funds, materials, etc., which are currently available for the proposed project. It should be made clear whether there are any restrictions or conditions on the use of other available support as it relates to the proposed project. Any materials or equipment donations from industry should be noted

here.

Other Requested Support:

These are other applications for the same project which are currently pending. Applications that have either complete or partial overlap with the current application should be included here. If there is overlap, give details of the amount and type of funding overlap.

Note: If funds from other sources meet or exceed the amount requested in the application, the proposal will be deemed ineligible for funding.

Section F: Facilities and Equipment

A clear description of the available facilities and equipment is used by the Research Committee to assess the feasibility of the project and the ability for the investigators to complete the proposed work. Include estimates of case recruitment rates if clinical studies are proposed.

Section G: Research Proposal Information

As with many other aspects of the research application, an investigator's attention to detail can be reflected in the ability to follow required formatting and content requirements. The Research Committee sees a large number of the same application format, and it is often clear when someone fails to follow the required formatting. Spell check and proofread an application entirely, prior to final submission.

Required Content:

- 1) Hypothesis: This should be objectively testable. This is precisely what the research should propose to do. The hypothesis(es) should relate directly to the research objectives and vice versa. It is preferable to state the hypothesis in a directional manner, based on the best estimate of the expected results of the research. For the scope of most ACVS Foundation grants, it is unrealistic to have more than one or two hypotheses.
 - Start with a great introduction.
 - Relevance — Write what is relevant and important to build the story for your study. At the conclusion of the introduction, the reader should bear in mind the question(s) your study will address. Use the primary literature to support your premise. Make your argument with concise points and not protracted complex thoughts.
 - Impact – It is important to convey the impact of the work. In general, the greater the clinical or scientific impact, the better the score. Keep this in mind when establishing your case; try to focus on significant, prevalent, common, impactful research questions.
 - Technology – Use of modern or new technologies (e.g., diagnostics, therapies, etc.) in research can be persuasive but will only be scored highly if the research content is relevant and impactful at the same time.
 - Every study should test one or more hypotheses. Hypotheses are not proven: the study will produce data that will either support them or refute them.
 - Keep the hypotheses and aims simple and concise. Rambling and vague hypotheses and unspecific aims often indicate a lack of research precision.
- 2) Specific Aim: State as explicitly as possible what the research will accomplish. It is useful to include the investigators' expectations and how they relate to the research objectives. How will the investigators test the hypotheses? There may be more than one specific aim required to adequately test each hypothesis.
- 3) Background and Significance/Preliminary Studies: This should be a condensed literature review, making the case for why the proposed research is important and why it should be performed by the investigators. It is important to identify clearly the knowledge gap (research question) that this research will fill. Making a logical, convincing argument regarding the significance of the research is a

critical step in convincing a reviewer that the project should be funded. This section is also where the potential impact of the anticipated research results should be highlighted. Reviewers are a broad cross section of the College membership and the chance that more than one Research Committee member is an expert in your specific field of research is low. For this reason, background arguments should be made in such a way that reviewers who are broadly educated in the field of veterinary surgery can understand. One can think of the background and significance/preliminary studies section as a funnel—directing the reviewer down a progressively narrower opening so that by the time this section is complete, the reviewer should be surprised that no one has thought of the research question or hypothesis before. Therefore, actually doing the experiment should be a formality because the results will not be a surprise.

4) Experimental Approach: Investigators should use enough detail so that the reviewers can understand exactly what is being proposed. It can be helpful to break the approach down into specific aims, where possible, so that it is easy to follow. It is also possible to have a general approach, and then outline methods to address the specific aims. An important way for applicants to show that they understand and have thought through the details of a project is to identify and address potential limitations of the research and include contingency plans for such events. An obvious flaw in an application that is not addressed by investigators leaves reviewers concerned about such possibilities. This typically impacts negatively on the scoring of an application. There are no perfect research projects and failure to identify limitations shows that investigators have not thought through the process in sufficient detail to realize the limitations, not that the application is so well constructed as to not contain any limitations!

- Reviewers want to know that you have performed due diligence and are not repeating work already done and that you can actually accomplish the methods that you are setting out to perform in the given time frame. Initial pilot data is a big help in this regard. Even one test run will help reviewers to understand that you are applying yourself to the process.
- If you are setting out to use clinical cases, reviewers will need to know that the cases can indeed be procured in the time period allotted. This is a challenge so showing the reviewers data from retrospective admissions will help.
- Reviewers want to know if you are going to learn scientific methodology by being guided in designing a good study. Are you creating flaws from the outset through lack of thought, lack of consultation with experts, lack of design/statistical assistance or input?
- Reviewers expect this project to be YOUR training opportunity. Outsourcing a lot of tests or techniques will not be a project that achieves this goal. The reviewers want you to learn how to do scientific research.
- Although performance of the study cannot happen until funding is available, it is critically important that the study design is solid and well-thought out. As mentioned, pilot data or retrospective data to support your goals or demonstrate feasibility is very useful. Further, demonstration of accurate, basic statistical consideration is key. For example, if you seek to answer a question, but you have no rationale for your sample size, clinical effect size, type of data, or type of analysis, then the proposal will not score as well. Thus, consultation with a statistician is highly recommended.

5) Statistical Methods: Generally, to test a hypothesis objectively, statistical analysis of objective data is necessary. There are exceptions to this situation; however, it is most often the case that some degree of data analysis will be performed, with results presented and ultimately interpreted. Designing a study so that a balanced data set is obtained to allow statistical analysis is critical. Central to any statistical analysis, especially when the use of live animal subjects is proposed, is an assessment of the sample size required to obtain meaningful results. This requires an estimation of the variability that the investigators expect in their principal outcome measures (this can be taken from preliminary data, previous studies, or literature when similar methods are used), as well as a judgment as to what a clinically meaningful finding would be in terms of a difference between experimental groups (known as

the effect size). It is useful to explain the rationale used when presenting this information. Sample size should also take into account drop-out of client owned animals, if applicable. Simply stating that a sample size of six will be used (because that is what all the other studies in this field have used) is insufficient! Again, investigators that have thought through their application fully will be able to present a well-justified statistical approach to the data expected from the project. It is generally worthwhile to consult a biostatistician for assistance in this area of the application.

- There is no excuse not to consult with a statistician prior to submitting the grant application. In a non-academic setting, please use resources from your veterinary institution - everyone is there to help and wish the best for your career.
- Don't be too self-assured even if you find yourself in a big lab which has a great research record. It is more important to consider what you expect might or might not happen. This is the uncertainty of research and why testing of a hypothesis is performed.
- Consider potential pitfalls - how will those be dealt with or worked around?

6) References: Use appropriate citation formatting (*Veterinary Surgery*) to complete the reference list and citations. Again, a lack of attention to detail here can reflect poorly on the entire application.

Upload the proposal, followed by the other mandatory documents, as a single PDF.

ACVS Foundation Research Grant Programs Grant Application Review Criteria

All grant applications are reviewed by the ACVS Research Committee based on the following criteria:

1. Originality/Innovation: Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research or clinical paradigms by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches, or methodologies, instrumentation, or intervention? Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense? Is a refinement, improvement, or new application of theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions proposed?

2. Significance: Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field of veterinary surgery? If aims of the project are achieved, how will scientific knowledge, technical capability, and/or clinical practice in the field of veterinary surgery be improved? How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative intervention that drive the field of veterinary surgery? (If funded, will the project have a substantial effect on strengthening the research environment and exposing the resident/Diplomate to research?)

3. Materials and methods: Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project? Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented? If the project is in the early stages of development, will the strategy establish feasibility and will particularly risky aspects be managed? If the project involves clinical research, are the plans for appropriate selection of clinical subjects, and humane treatment of animals justified in terms of the scientific goals and research strategy proposed? Are the statistical methods appropriate?

4. Environment and Investigators: Will the scientific environment in which the work will be done contribute to the probability of success? Are the institutional support, equipment, and other physical resources available to the investigators adequate for the project proposed? Will the project benefit from unique features of the scientific environment, subject population, or collaborative arrangements? Does the application provide sufficient evidence that participants have previously or are likely to pursue research careers? Is the principal investigator, and other collaborators and researchers well suited to the project? Do early or new investigators have appropriate experience and training? Have established investigators demonstrated an ongoing record of accomplishments that have advanced the field of veterinary surgery? Do the investigators have complementary and integrated expertise; are their leadership approach, governance, and organizational structure appropriate for the project?

5. Budget: Was the cost well justified and accurate? Were the guidelines followed in relation to the budget (allowed expenses may be limited in specific funding mechanism, e.g., Diplomate Research Grant does not allow personnel cost to be covered in the grant)?

Scoring Scale. The nine-point scoring scale is used to score each criterion.

9 Exceptional	Exceptionally strong with essentially no weaknesses
8 Outstanding	Extremely strong with negligible weaknesses
7 Excellent	Very strong with only some minor weaknesses
6 Very Good	Strong but with numerous minor weaknesses
5 Good	Strong but with at least one moderate weakness
4 Satisfactory	Some strengths, but also some moderate weaknesses
3 Fair	Some strengths, but with at least one major weakness
2 Marginal	A few strengths and a few major weaknesses
1 Poor	Very few strengths and numerous major weaknesses

Grant Writing Resources

The ACVS Foundation and the ACVS Research Committee encourages all Diplomates and residents to submit quality, professionally written proposals for the grants available each year. In addition to the wealth of information regarding submitting your application for an ACVS Foundation Research Grant, there are additional resources developed to support grant writing. We would like to one of the many resources that are available to help you with your grant application process.

National Institute of Health: [Grants & Funding – Write Your Application](#)