

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Support of Scholarly Activities (SOSA) for Awards in Academic Years 2021-2023

NEW THIS YEAR: Deadline to [request a SOSA application](#): SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

DEADLINE to submit application via FACULTY PROCESS: OCTOBER 1, 2020

The Office of Academic Affairs will notify applicants of award decisions in late January

PROGRAM MISSION AND ENDURING PRINCIPLES

The Support of Scholarly Activities (SOSA) program is designed to promote faculty and librarian scholarship, creative activity, and professional activity of exceptional merit and/or promise. The SOSA program reflects the College's commitment to making TCNJ a strong community of teacher-scholars and librarian-scholars. The program provides tenure-track faculty members and librarians an alternate assignment within workload, and/or a monetary award, in order to have more time and/or resources to engage in scholarly, creative, and/or professional activities. The SOSA program is designed to support—with equal importance—both new faculty members and librarians who are establishing their agenda for scholarly, creative, and/or professional activity; as well as continuing faculty members and librarians engaged in ongoing scholarly, creative, and/or professional activity.

The SOSA program is a competitive yet inclusive grant program, as it provides faculty members and librarians with support to expand their program of scholarly, creative, and/or professional activity beyond the level that is already expected and included within workload. Successful proposals must be of high quality, innovative, and supported by the candidate's area of expertise, record of accomplishments, and academic goals. Given that SOSA support is possible only with budgetary resources, SOSA grants are awarded in accordance with the following enduring principles:

1. The SOSA program is a competitive process that supports prospective scholarly, creative, and/or professional work. The review process is conducted in a fair, transparent, and efficient manner;
2. The proposed narrative describing the scholarly, creative, and/or professional program/project is given the greatest weight in the evaluation of any SOSA proposal;
3. The scholarly, creative, and/or professional qualifications of the applicant are also given consideration in the review process. The applicant's area of expertise, record of recent and overall scholarly accomplishments, and academic goals should support the proposed SOSA work and enhance the scholarly culture at the College.

All full-time, tenure-line faculty members and librarians, regardless of tenure status or rank, who began their appointment at TCNJ *prior* to the 2019-20 academic year are eligible and encouraged to apply for SOSA awards. (Tenure-line faculty and librarians who began their appointment at TCNJ *in* the 2019-20 or 2020-21 academic years are participants in the New Faculty Support of Scholarship (NFSS) program, and are not eligible to receive SOSA awards until their 4th year.) The teaching or administrative needs of a Program, Department, or School cannot be used to discourage an applicant from applying.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

When submitting a SOSA application, applicants will have the option to indicate whether they choose a) reassigned time of 3 FWH each year for two years, b) a monetary award equivalent to the current overload pay (at the rate in effect when the application is submitted) for an assistant professor for 3 FWH (currently, \$5,895) for each of the two years, or c) a combination of monetary award and reassigned time, specifying the year during which they want to take the reassigned time. Applicants taking monetary awards must submit all reimbursement receipts no later than the December 1 that follows the academic year of their award (e.g, by December 1, 2022 for an AY2021-2022 monetary award).

Once approved, applicants cannot change from reassigned time to a monetary award. Applicants who have been granted one year of reassigned time and one year of a monetary award cannot switch the year during which each type of award is taken.

SOSA has a finite number of awards, and recipients are determined by the SOSA Council, a representative group of faculty and librarians. Applicants who choose to accept a sabbatical or other form of professional leave (e.g., fellowships and visiting appointments) will relinquish their reassigned time or monetary award for the academic year(s) in which they take leave. Applicants who take family or medical leave during the award period should consult with their deans.

Collaborative Scholarship Efforts

Applicants seeking SOSA support for collaborative projects with other TCNJ faculty or librarians who are also seeking SOSA support must each submit separate, individual applications and indicate on the cover page of the application the name of their collaborator(s). Applicants must devote a major portion of the proposal narrative to the specifics of how the project fits with their scholarly/creative/professional objectives and describe their individual roles and activities in the collaboration. Applicants should not provide identical or nearly identical (verbatim) descriptions of the proposal narrative. All proposals will be evaluated individually.

New This Year: Each applicant seeking SOSA support [must indicate via this form that they intend to apply for SOSA](#) during the 2021-2023 cycle. **Applicants must do so no later than September 24**, so that Academic Affairs can create a SOSA application case for the applicant in Faculty Process.

- When your application case is created, the Faculty Process system will email you a notice (within 3 business days of completing the form above) that you have a “case available,” which means you can access and upload your materials to Faculty Process before the October 1 deadline.
- [Help for using Faculty Process, including video tutorials, is posted on the Academic Affairs website.](#)
- From Faculty Process ([or the hyperlink embedded here](#)), download the cover form pdf and complete it, then obtain your chair and dean acknowledgement signatures (digital signatures are acceptable).
- Upload the completed and signed cover form to Faculty Process with all other materials (proposal narrative and annotated CV, and if applicable, SOSA final reports and budget/budget justification – all in pdf format) **no later than 11:59 pm on October 1, 2020.**
- **Application materials that have not been submitted by October 1, 2020 via Faculty Process will not be reviewed.**

NOTE: The applicant’s budget file will NOT be reviewed by the SOSA Council. Should the proposal be recommended for funding, the Office of Academic Affairs will evaluate this document and provide final funding recommendations.

APPLICATION FORMAT

A. Cover Form

Applicants should [download the Cover Form](#). All applicants must complete this cover form in full, obtain chair and dean signatures, and upload to Faculty Process as a pdf file.

B. Components of the Proposal Narrative (Description of the Proposed SOSA Program/Project)

The SOSA Council will evaluate each proposal based on the review criteria below, using the *Evaluation Rubric*; however, the applicant should keep in mind that non-specialists will be evaluating the proposal. It is the applicant's responsibility to present the proposed program/project in a clear, well-organized manner that effectively communicates all elements of the proposal to the SOSA Council, which comprises members with broad disciplinary representation.

Requirements of the Proposal Narrative

The Proposal Narrative should be no more than three single-spaced pages, with one-inch margins and Times New Roman 12-pt. font. *Do not exceed the page limit. Council members will not read beyond three single-spaced pages.*

The Proposal Narrative should address the following information (not necessarily in the order listed) that corresponds to the *Evaluation Rubric* the Council uses for its evaluation:

1. Concise description of the proposed scholarly activity

An overview of the proposed scholarly/creative/professional program/project(s) should be provided. The description should be scholarly, yet accessible to the non-specialist. This section should contain pertinent information to adequately describe the context of the applicant's scholarly activity. SOSA applicants should not submit the same description of a previously awarded proposal in subsequent years.

2. Proposed objectives and purpose of the scholarly activities

A description of the proposed project purpose(s) and the specific objectives to be accomplished during the two-year SOSA award period should be provided. Applicants should describe how their project fits within the applicant's scholarly agenda.

3. Detailed plan of scholarly activity with proposed timeline

Applicants should provide a detailed plan to accomplish the proposed activity. Details should include specific methods to achieve the proposed goals and a timeline of activities over the two-year SOSA award period. Applicants should explain how they are planning to accomplish their scholarly activities and whether they have secured (or how they plan to secure) the proper permissions and approvals—e.g., IRB, archives, schools—required to undertake and complete this project. Faculty and librarians applying for monetary grants should not provide a detailed budget or budget justification in the main section of the proposal, but should show in the plan and proposed timeline how the use of release time and/or a monetary award will be structured.

4. Expected scholarly outcomes

Applicants should describe plans for disseminating/exhibiting the results of the proposed scholarly activities and describe their potential to yield one or more outcomes. Outcomes could include scholarly articles, grant proposals, a book (for which applicants should indicate chapters to be completed during the SOSA award and actual or potential publishers), conference presentations, artworks or exhibits, recitals or other public performances, etc. Applicants might also explain the audiences they expect this project to reach.

C. Qualifications and Scholarly Record—Annotated Curriculum Vitae and Final Reports

The qualifications and scholarly/creative/professional activity of the applicant will be reviewed based upon evidence submitted in the annotated CV and prior SOSA final reports. (Final reports are required only for prior SOSA awards completed within the past five years.) The Council will consider the applicant's career stage and assess whether the scholarly record indicates that the applicant can successfully complete the project described in the proposal.

Requirements of the Annotated Curriculum Vitae

Applicants should provide an annotated CV that highlights their scholarly, creative, and professional work. (Information about courses taught and non-scholarly service should not be included unless this information is related to the SOSA proposal.) Annotations assist evaluators from across the disciplines in understanding the quality, scale, and scope of listed activities within the context of the applicant's discipline. Applicants should provide information about expected productivity and the scholarship/disciplinary standards in their field, such as type of outlet (e.g., the relative value of scholarly outlets such as book manuscripts in history and high-impact, peer-reviewed journal articles in the sciences, or the prominence of performance or exhibition venues in the arts).

Applicants are asked to include a brief paragraph or table at the end of their annotated CV that summarizes, if applicable, their Final SOSA reports from the past five years and describes their progress on SOSA-sponsored research.

Applicants should include the following information in their annotations:

- Full bibliographic citations for all publications, including authors and page number ranges;
- Notations indicating whether publication and presentation venues are refereed/peer-reviewed/juried or non-refereed/peer-reviewed/juried;
- For publications with multiple authors, indications of primary author, how authorship order is determined in the discipline, and specific descriptions of the applicant's contribution to the work;
- Whether creative exhibitions and performances are regional, national, or international in scope and whether juried or by curator/institutional invitation;
- Other information about the publication, creative exhibit, performance, etc., that will help readers outside the applicant's field assess the scope and quality of the applicant's record of scholarship, such as the rate of acceptance or the status of a venue within the applicant's discipline.

Requirements for the Final SOSA Award Report(s)

Applicants who have received a SOSA award(s) within the **past five (5) years** must upload copies of final reports from the past five years to Faculty Process. These files must be uploaded by the **October 1 deadline**, and applications that lack final reports will not be reviewed. These reports must also be sent to the Office of Academic Affairs on or before the first Monday in October. Interim reports at the end of the first year of a two-year award are not required and should not be submitted. Final Report Form and instructions are available at the SOSA webpage: <https://academicaffairs.tcnj.edu/faculty/research-faculty-development/>.

D. Pre-Tenure Applicants

Pre-tenure applicants will receive two additional points as indicated on the *Evaluation Rubric*.

E. Budget

If the applicant is requesting a monetary award, then a proposed budget and budget justification must be submitted as a separate file through Faculty Process. The budget section should be concise (one page or less). The following expenses could be included in the budget: travel to research sites; equipment; supplies and technology purchases; purchases of datasets; payment of a participation fee to participants in experiments; and travel to present research results (beyond that normally supported from the School's travel budget). Other expenditure categories proposed by applicants will also be considered, but funds may not be used for faculty/librarian salary. If requested by the applicant, the Office of Grants and Sponsored Research (OGSR) will provide support in developing the budget. Only expenses related to the research project described in the SOSA application will be covered by this funding. Adherence to this requirement will be confirmed by OGSR and approved by the appropriate dean.

If requesting a monetary award, the Budget must be submitted as a pdf-formatted file via Faculty Process.

EVALUATION RUBRIC FOR SOSA APPLICATIONS

Applicant's Name _____

Items completed in accordance with SOSA RFP:

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|--------------------|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|----|--------------|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|----|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|----|--------------------|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|----|
| Proposal Narrative | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | Annotated CV | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | Final Reports (if needed) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | Budget (if needed) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|----|--------------|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|----|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|----|--------------------|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|----|

Scores range from Absent (0) to Outstanding (5 or 10 points, depending on the category)

Proposal Assessment

Score = (max 35 pts)

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| Concise description of proposed scholarly activity (<i>What is the context for your proposed program/project?</i>) | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Proposed objectives or purpose of scholarly activity (<i>What are the objectives of your scholarly activities? How will your project impact your field?</i>) | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Detailed plan of proposed scholarly activity with timeline (<i>How are you planning to accomplish your scholarly activities? Have you secured/made plans to secure the proper permissions and approvals -- e.g., IRB, archives, schools -- required to undertake and complete this project? Faculty and librarians applying for monetary grants should not provide a budget justification in the main section of the proposal, but should show in the timeline how release time and/or a monetary award will be structured.</i>) | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Expected Scholarly Outcomes including potential to yield tangible scholarship outcomes (e.g., publications, grants, performances, new scholarly directions, etc.) (<i>What will you do with the results of your scholarly activities?</i>) | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | |

Qualifications/Expertise of the Applicant

Score = (max 15 pts)

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|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| Recent Scholarly Record (<i>Applicant's recent scholarly activity within the past 5 years, including examination of any SOSA Reports submitted and curriculum vitae, taking into consideration applicant's career stage.</i>) | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Overall Scholarly Record (<i>Applicant's ongoing/history and progress of scholarly activities and examination of curriculum vitae, taking into consideration applicant's career stage. Does the applicant have a history of successfully completing scholarly endeavors?</i>) | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | |

Pre-tenure

Score = (2 pt only)

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|-------------------------|---|---|
| Applicant is pre-tenure | 0 | 2 |
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Final Score = (up to 52 pts)