

The Augusta Webster Faculty Fellowship in Educational Research and Innovation

Department of Medical Education Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

[The Augusta Webster Faculty Fellowship in Educational Research and Innovation](#) is an opportunity for career development through investigator-proposed, innovative research projects in health professions education-related scholarship and research. The goals of the Fellowship are to:

- Provide mentorship, support and career development to faculty establishing careers focused on scholarship and research in education
- Promote innovation in health professions education research
- Serve as funds to lead to future educational research and grants

[Click here to submit an application for the 2026-2028 cycle](#)

Eligibility:

Applications must have a primary investigator who has an active appointment to the faculty of the Feinberg School of Medicine and be at the rank of instructor, assistant professor (or associate professor with prior approval to submit) at the time of the application deadline.

{ Note: for those accepted, the eight fellowship sessions held January-April are in person and attendance is mandatory }

Scope:

Successful proposals will address current issues and/or challenges in health professions education at any level of the health professions education continuum. The committee will give preference to projects that can be the basis for an applicant's future research.

Timeframe:

Projects are two years in length

Funding:

Applications may request up to \$25,000 annually (for a total of \$50,000 maximum funding request over the two-year grant period).

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- All salaries budgeted must adhere to the current NIH salary cap (http://grants.nih.gov/grants/policy/salcap_summary.htm).
- We have found that primary investigators are successful when they have sufficient release time to conduct their project. Therefore, we strongly encourage an allocation of no less than 5% effort over the course of the grant with at least 5% FTE salary as part of the budget. **The minimum FTE budgeted on the grant is 5% FTE, however, more may be budgeted.**
- Beyond funds for the primary investigator, funds may be designated for staff or student support, materials for research. Supplies specific to the purpose of the project (e.g., books, specialized software, teaching or assessment aids) may be included. However, general supplies (e.g., computer hardware, etc.) are not permitted. Capital expenditures greater than \$5,000 are not permitted.

Application Process:

The process for applying for the [Augusta Webster Faculty Fellowship](#) is multi-stage and is intended to serve a dual role as an application process as well as a mentorship opportunity.

- Applicant submits initial application (details below) through online an [Application Form](#): **Due December 19, 2025, at 11:59 pm.**
- We will review applications and those deemed to be appropriate for further consideration (6 applications) are invited to move into an eight-week mentored proposal development program: Initial invitations will be announced the week of January 9th, 2026 with the first session the week of the 19th.
- Individuals accepted into the proposal development process will be expected to commit to a total of seven hours of in-person meetings from **February to March/April 2026**. **Participants must attend all sessions in person.**
- **Final proposals are due to the committee by March 25, 2026 at 11:59pm.**
- The committee will release final funding decisions in late April.
- Funding for selected projects will begin with the next University fiscal year: **September 1, 2026**. *Please note the September start date does not coincide with the academic year, but is required by the budgetary policy of the University. Please take this into consideration in planning your project.*

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Initial Application Requirements:

A completed proposal/letter of interest should contain the following components:

1. Online Application Form ([Click Here to Submit an Application](#))
2. Descriptive title of proposed research
3. Name, title, department, address, email, and telephone number for principal investigator applicant
4. A 250 word research abstract
5. Names of other key personnel
6. Brief description (~ 2-page, single space, 1" margins) of proposed research and methods with sections headers; **Approach, feasibility, innovation and potential impact and an optional section for those further into their career explaining why they should be considered (one paragraph).**
7. Number of years, estimated overall budget for each year, and estimated percent effort for each year
8. Curriculum vitae of primary investigator in [Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine format](#).

Full Proposal Requirements (if accepted into proposal development program):

- 6-8 page full proposal
- 1-page maximum works cited
- Educational instruments being used in the study (if applicable)
- Budget using the [NIH SF424 budget](#) form and a written budget justification
- Letter from Chair/Division Chief supporting time commitment
- Letter from your Medical Director granting permission for the study (this is applicable if your proposal includes planned activities occurring in a clinical environment)

Questions?

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at fame@northwestern.edu.