



ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY GUIDELINES FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS Guidelines for 2026-27 Academic Year

The Professional Development Fund was established in 2005 at Arkansas Tech University to enhance individual and departmental efforts for professional growth and development through Professional Development Grants (PDG).

A. ELIGIBILITY

All faculty including tenured and tenure-track as well as instructors may apply. We are not accepting applications from visiting faculty at this time.

Grants will be awarded for the following purposes:

1. Presentations, exhibitions, or performances at professional conferences, festivals, galleries, or other recognized venues in your field
2. attendance at a professional conference, workshop, or creative residency
3. attendance or presentation at virtual conferences, webinars, or online workshops
4. faculty research, creative endeavors, or other scholarly activities (must have been approved by the IRB first, if applicable)

B. FUNDING REQUESTS AND UTILIZATION GUIDELINES

Faculty may request funding for as many virtual and/or in-person conferences as desired, so long as the total amount requested for the year does not exceed \$1,500.

Faculty may apply before receiving notification of acceptance for conference presentations, but funds awarded will not be released until a notification of acceptance is submitted.

Faculty must utilize the funds in accordance with their approved application. Any funds not used as specified must be returned to the Professional Development Grant.

C. APPLICATION

Submit the completed and signed application to pdg-frg@atu.edu by the deadline.

D. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Attach any supporting documents such as notification of acceptance or IRB approval to the application form. If notification of acceptance has not been received, please provide an estimated date or date range for receipt of notification of acceptance.

E. FINAL REPORT

Recipients are required to submit a final report within 60 days of completion of the professional development activity. If your application is approved, you will be emailed a link for the final report. Failure to submit the report may result in denial of future applications.

2026-27 DEADLINES:

FALL: September 25th @ 11:59 pm for Travel July 2026 – February 2027

SPRING: February 10th @ 11:59 pm for Travel March – June 2027

PDG/FRG Rubric

	4	3	2	1	
Contributes to professional growth of the faculty (8 points)	Proposal explicitly states how the outcomes contribute to the professional growth of the faculty member. The proposal is clearly articulated in this regard, specifically, and goes beyond what is expected.	Proposal contains a clear statement related to professional growth and meets the basic criteria.	Proposal contains a statement that only loosely mentions professional growth; however, the statement is unclear, vague, and/or lacks focus.	Benefit not stated, not obvious.	
Institutional Impact and Significance (4 points)	The opportunity is highly significant, with broad institutional impact. It clearly enhances ATU's scholarship, visibility, or reputation; strongly aligns with ATU's mission and Strategic plan; and offers sustainable benefits (e.g., student involvement, future collaborations, program development).	The opportunity has clear value to the applicant and contributes to ATU's academic mission. Some broader benefits or recognition are present, though impact on ATU's visibility, reputation, or long-term outcomes is moderate.	The opportunity provides individual benefit but has vague or weak connections to ATU's scholarship, reputation, or mission. Broader impact is minimal or not clearly described.	The opportunity is unclear, narrowly focused, or unrelated to ATU's academic excellence. No broader institutional benefits are evident.	
Budget and costs are clearly identified, supported, and reasonable (4 points)	The funds requested are sufficient to fully support the proposed activity or has clearly identified and secured additional funding to cover any shortfall. Budget is detailed, allowable, and appropriate.	The activity appears underfunded by the grant alone, but the applicant mentions other possible support sources (e.g., department, college, outside grant) without full confirmation.	Budget does not fully support the proposed activity and includes no plan or uncertain sources to cover the shortfall. Line items may be vague, inappropriate, or exceed allowable uses.	No budget included, or budget lacks enough detail to assess feasibility. No information is provided about additional funding or cost coverage.	
Applicant Status (4 points)	Untenured Tenure track	Tenured	Instructor	Not provided	
How often have you received PDG/FRG Funding (4 points)	No prior PDG/FRG funding in past 3 years	Have received PDG/FRG funds, but not last year.	Have received PDG/FRG funds in the previous year, but not last sem.	Have received PDG/FRG funds in the previous semester or already this academic year.	
Sharing with colleagues and/or Students (4 points)	Plan to share with colleagues and benefit to students clearly described.	Plan to share with colleagues OR benefit to students clearly described.	Plan or benefit mentioned, but details unclear.	No mention of sharing, but report will be detailed and thorough.	
				Total out of 28 Possible Points	



APPLICATION FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT

2026-27 DEADLINES:

FALL: September 25th @ 11:59 pm for Travel July 2026 – February 2027

SPRING: February 10th @ 11:59 pm for Travel March – June 2027

Date of Submission: _____

1. Faculty Information

Name: _____

T#: _____

Campus Address: _____

Faculty Title: _____

☐ Tenured ☐ Untenured ☐ Instructor Track

Campus Phone: _____

College: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Department: _____

2. Purpose

- ☐ Conference Attendance with Presentation, Exhibition, or Performance*
- ☐ Conference Attendance without Presentation, Exhibition, or Performance
- ☐ Independent Research or Creative Endeavor**
- ☐ Other: _____

3. Activity

Please include all information based on the activity being proposed

Conference Attendance
and Presentations

Dates ☐ Virtual ☐ In Person

Conference/Workshop/Festival

Title of Presentation (Put N/A if the activity is attendance without presenting.)

** Please include the notification of acceptance if you are presenting at a conference. If notification of acceptance has not been received, please provide an estimated date or date range for receipt of notification of acceptance.*

Summary of your project (250 words max)

Independent Research
or Creative Endeavor

*** Faculty research: If applicable, IACUC, IRB, or IBC approval must be included with this application.*

4. Professional Growth & Development

Describe how the proposed activity will enhance your professional development and/or contribute to the professional growth of others in the university community. (250 words max)

5. Institutional Impact & Significance

Explain how this activity will support [ATU's mission and Strategic Plan](#), strengthen scholarship, and enhance the visibility or reputation of the University. (250 words max)

6. Knowledge Sharing & Student Benefit

Describe how you will share outcomes or insights with colleagues and how students will benefit from your participation.

7. Budget Breakdown

Conference Fee	
Meals	
Lodging	
Transportation / Parking	
Airfare	
Research Materials	
Other (<i>Attach Documentation</i>):	
Total Cost	

Amount Requested from PDG fund	
External Funding Sources / Contribution (<i>if any</i>)	
Personal Contribution (<i>if any</i>)	
Department Contribution (<i>if any</i>)	
College Contribution (<i>if any</i>)	

8. Account Information

Index	Fund	Org	Account	Program

Admin's Name: _____ Admin's Email: _____

9. SIGNATURES:

Applicant

Date

Department Chair

Date

Dean

Date