

Dr. Omana Simon Graduate Student Research Award

Applicant Guidelines

Please review the eligibility criteria, required application materials, proposal format, and submission instructions before completing your application.

Purpose of the Award

The National Association of Indian Nurses of America (NAINA) supports nursing research that advances knowledge in education, practice, and health care. The Dr. Omana Simon Graduate Student Research Award provides financial support to a qualified graduate nursing student to assist with the direct costs of a research project. This award honors the spirit of inquiry and dedication to the development of nursing knowledge to improve health for all. NAINA intends to present this award biennially to one graduate nursing student. Funding from this award may be combined with other funding sources.

Award Amount

The maximum award amount is **\$1,000**.

Application Due Date and Award Announcement

Applications for the **2026–2027 award cycle** are due by **August 1, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.**

The award will be announced at the NAINA Biennial Conference.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Be a current member of NAINA or a local NAINA chapter.
2. Be a registered nurse with an active license and currently practicing in the United States.
3. Be a graduate nursing student in good standing at a college or university in the United States.
4. Have a well-defined research project relevant to nursing.
5. Obtain approval of the proposed research from a faculty research advisor, thesis chair, or dissertation chair before submitting the application.
6. Provide evidence that Institutional Review Board approval has been obtained or submitted before proposal submission.
7. Be able to use the award funds within 12 months of receiving them.

Eligible projects may include doctoral dissertations, master's thesis projects, and other small- or large-scale graduate nursing research projects.

Selection Criteria

Research proposals will be reviewed based on the quality, clarity, feasibility, and significance of the proposed project. Priority will be given to projects that demonstrate relevance to nursing knowledge, practice, education, or health outcomes.

Required Application Components

Applicants must submit the following materials:

1. Application Form for the Dr. Omana Simon Graduate Student Research Award
2. Award Agreement Form
3. Research Proposal Faculty Approval Form
4. Goals of the Project and Researcher's Role
5. Research Proposal
6. Curriculum Vitae

The Research Proposal Faculty Approval Form should be downloaded, completed, and uploaded with the online application.

Research Proposal Requirements

The research proposal must be typed, double-spaced, and no longer than five pages, excluding the abstract, human subjects section, budget, references, and appendices. The proposal must follow the latest edition of the American Psychological Association (APA) format and be uploaded as a word document.

Proposal Format

Abstract: Provide a concise summary of the proposed study. The abstract should include the study purpose, research design, sample and setting, methods, and potential implications for nursing science, practice, education, or policy. The abstract must not exceed 250 words and is not included in the five-page proposal limit.

Purpose and Research Question: Clearly state the overall purpose of the study. Include the specific research question, aim, or hypothesis the project will address. The purpose should be focused, measurable, and aligned with the proposed methodology.

Background and Literature Review: Briefly summarize the current state of knowledge related to the research topic. Identify key findings from relevant literature, describe what is already known, and clearly state the gap in knowledge that the proposed study will address. Explain how the gap is relevant to nursing.

Significance to Nursing: Describe why the study is important. Explain how the findings may contribute to nursing science, clinical practice, education, leadership, health equity, patient outcomes, or health care delivery. Emphasize the potential impact of the project.

Methods: Describe the scientific approach that will be used to answer the research question. Include the following, as applicable:

Study design: Identify the design, such as quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods, descriptive, correlational, experimental, quasi-experimental, or secondary data analysis.

Sample and setting: Describe the target population, sample size, eligibility criteria, recruitment plan, and study setting.

Measures or instruments: Identify the tools, surveys, interview guides, clinical measures, or data sources that will be used. Include reliability and validity information when available.

Procedures: Describe how data will be collected and managed.

Data analysis plan: Explain how the data will be analyzed. For quantitative studies, identify planned statistical tests. For qualitative studies, describe the analytic approach, such as thematic analysis or content analysis. For mixed methods studies, explain how quantitative and qualitative findings will be integrated.

Resources and timeline: Identify any required equipment, software, facilities, or other resources. Include a realistic timeline for completing the study and preparing a publishable manuscript.

Protection of Human Subjects: Provide documentation of Institutional Review Board approval or evidence that IRB review has been submitted through the applicant's institution. If the study requires approval from an additional clinical site, agency, or organization, include evidence of that approval or pending review. If IRB approval is pending at the time of application, funds will not be released until approval is received. This section is not included in the five-page proposal limit.

Budget

Provide a detailed budget for direct research costs. The total amount requested may not exceed **\$1,000**. Allowable expenses may include equipment, supplies, research-related travel, postage, photocopying, participant reimbursement or incentives, and other costs directly related to conducting the research. Funds may not be used for living expenses, routine travel, travel to professional meetings, salaries, or other expenses not directly related to the research project. Include a brief budget justification explaining why each item is necessary and how the cost estimate was determined.

References

References must follow the latest edition of APA format. References are not included in the five-page limit.

Appendices

Appendices may be included as needed and are not included in the five-page limit.

Submission Instructions

The completed online application and all required documents must be submitted by **August 1, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.**

Applicants must upload the following documents with the online application:

1. Research Proposal, PDF
2. Curriculum Vitae, PDF
3. Research Proposal Faculty Approval Form, PDF, JPEG, or PNG
4. Passport-size photograph of the applicant, PNG or JPEG

Questions: For questions, please contact:

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NAINA Research and Grant Committee Chair

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