NACS | NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATIONS SYMPOSIUM

In conjunction with the annual meeting of the

Southern Association of Agricultural Scientists
Feb. 4 - Feb. 9, 2027 (SAAS) | Feb. 7 - 8, 2027 (NACS)
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

2027 Next Gen Scholar Grant
Request for Applications (RFA)
Deadline: December 18, 2026 by 11:59 pm (Central Time)

OVERVIEW
The National Agricultural Communications Symposium (NACS) is pleased to announce the inaugural **Next Gen Scholar Grant Program**. This initiative is designed to support master's and doctoral students conducting research in agricultural and applied communications by providing funding to advance their theses, dissertations, or other scholarly projects. Competitive awards of up to **$750** will be awarded based on available funds.

PURPOSE & GOALS
The NACS Next Gen Scholar Grant seeks to:

- Support emerging scholars in agricultural and applied communications.
- Advance high-quality graduate student research.
- Foster innovation and scholarly inquiry within the discipline.
- Encourage dissemination of research findings through NACS.

ELIGIBILITY
Applicants must:

- Be currently enrolled in a master's or doctoral program.
- Be in good academic standing at their institution, confirmed by Faculty Advisor Endorsement letter (see below).

Projects must:

- Demonstrate relevance to agricultural and applied communications
- Research to be completed by Oct. 1, 2027 to support feasibility of presentation at NACS 2028. If you have questions about partial project eligibility, please reach out.

One application per student will be accepted. NACS welcomes applications from multiple graduate students at the same institution. Institutional affiliation will not be considered in the review process, and proposals will be evaluated competitively based on the established selection criteria.

FUNDING

Award(s) of up to **$750** may be requested to support projects. Funds may not be used for tuition, indirect costs, or general conference travel. Funds may be used for research-related expenses, including:

- Data collection
- Participant incentives
- Travel for data collection
- Software or research tools
- Transcription services
- Other project-related expenses

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must submit a PDF **using the provided template (attached)** to include the following sections:

1. **Project Narrative** (maximum 2 pages), including:
    - Project title
    - PI and advisor contact information
    - Purpose and significance
    - Research questions and/or objectives
    - Procedures/Approach/Methodology
    - Project Timeline (Chart)
    - Expected outcomes
2. **Budget and Budget Justification** (maximum 1 page)
3. **(Attach) Faculty Advisor Endorsement** (Signed Letter of Support)

Submit a combined application and letter to submit as one PDF.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

- Completeness of application in alignment with requirements
- Research relevance to agricultural and applied communications
- Scholarly merit and potential contribution to the field
- Feasibility of the proposed project
- Alignment with the goals of the Next Gen Scholar Grant Program

Preference will be given to applications requesting thesis or dissertation research support.

Awardee Responsibilities

Recipients are expected to:

- Provide documentation of IRB approval, animal protections approval, or both within 45 days of award, as applicable.
- Complete the proposed project within the stated timeline.
- Acknowledge NACS funding support in resulting presentations or publications.
- Present findings at the following year's National Agricultural Communications Symposium (Any member of the author team may present)
- Provide a one-page final report to the NACS officer team demonstrating the impact of the funding, current or pending outputs, and/or other documentation of project completion and impact.

Key Dates

Application Deadline	December 18
Notice of Award	January 15
Number of Awards	Based on available funds
Duration of Award	Research completed prior to Oct. 1, 2027 or before NACS 2028 submission deadline
Award Amount	Up to $750
Presentation of Findings	NACS - February 2028

APPLICATION SUBMISSION AND REVIEW

Applications will be reviewed by a panel of 2-3 faculty and industry professionals.

Please use the dedicated template and submit one PDF of your application via this Google Form:

NACS Next Gen Scholar Grant Application [CLICK HERE]

Please contact **Dr. Carrie Baker** (carrie.n.baker@okstate.edu) if you have questions about the submission. Please copy Ms. Kenna Sandberg (ksandbrg@calpoly.edu) to ensure all emails are received and reviewed. For more information about the NACS meeting, please visit https://www.nacsweb.org/.