

2026 Education and Research Grants

SCIFTS Education and Research Grants are available to educational research institutions that advance food science, nutrition, and closely related technologies within the SCIFTS' geographical area. Funding proposals will be evaluated on the potential contribution to further the knowledge in the fields of food science and nutrition, and on the potential contribution to develop students as competent scientific investigators or educators in these disciplines. The emphasis is to enhance programs that will benefit a large segment of the student population. Applications should not emphasize the research goals of single students and faculty representatives.

Education and Research Grant Criteria and Guidelines:

1. Applicant must use current established criteria as published in SCIFTS. Changes may have been made to the judgement criteria from previous years.
2. Applications for 2026 are limited to one proposal per researcher per year..
3. The funds will be designated for Colleges and Universities in Southern California with Food Science, Nutrition or closely related programs.
4. Applications for apparatus and mechanisms, including maintenance and repair contracts, to advance research and education are encouraged. Computer software, lab supplies, books, lab and pilot plant equipment, and similar items will be considered for funding. Items such as travel, personal assistants, fax, phone, mail, paid graduate assistants, etc. are not eligible for funding.
5. Funds must be used for items specific in the grant application, even if the full amount requested is not granted by SCIFTS. They cannot be used for other items or projects.
6. Recipients must submit an accounting of how funds are used (i.e. receipts of funds used) in the following May.
7. Proposals will be evaluated, and awards designated based on the merit of the proposal as determined by the Education Grant Committee.
8. SCIFTS Education and Research applicants that are funded must foster an atmosphere conducive to research integrity, bear primary responsibility for prevention and detection of research misconduct, and maintain and effectively communicate and train their staff regarding policies and procedures. In the event an application to SCIFTS results in an award, the Authorized Representative (AR) assures, through acceptance of the award that the institution will comply with the above requirements.

Application will be judged according to the following established criteria:

Required: Properly completed, typewritten grant request. Must include: (a) project support letters from Dean of College and Chair of Dept.; (b) request for grant received by deadline; (c) all required information/sections provided; (d) applicant submitted only one proposal; and (e) eligible funds are designated for a College or University in Southern California with Food Science, Nutrition or closely related programs.

Maximum Merit Points

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| 5 | 1. Identify and outline the goal(s) and objective(s) of the proposed project. |
| 25 | 2. Describe (a) the proposed project; (b) its relationship to the current state of knowledge; and its contribution to/application in Nutrition and/or Food Science and Technology advancements. |
| 5 | 3. Outline timetable of the proposed project (short-term, one-year project; seed funding for pilot or long-term project; addition funding to continue/conclude this project). |
| 5 | 4. Provide evidence of inter/intra departmental and/or collegiate collaboration. |
| 15 | 5. Itemize and justify each budget item required for the proposed project. Include any applicable discounts. Items such as travel, overhead, personnel, office maintenance, etc. are not eligible for funding. |
| 5 | 6. Identify confirmed matching/complementary funding source(s) for this proposed project, such as research grants, industrial contributions, lottery funds and non-proprietary contracts. |
| 25 | 7. Describe the potential contribution of this project to (a) student development and competency in research (scientific process), or (b) student education in Nutrition or Food Science and Technology. Include statement that assesses the potential percentages of students impacted by this project. |
| 5 | 8. Describe the mechanism(s) to analyze, report, and disseminate/publish/present project information. |
| 5 | 9. Identify and summarize the qualifications and responsibilities of the principal and associate investigators, including students and faculty, required to execute and complete the proposed project. |
| 5 | 10. Applicant is eligible for up to 10 points if she/he is active/involved in SCIFTS. Please summarize |

100 TOTAL SCORE. Minimum score of 50 is required for consideration of any award

2026 Grant Application schedule:

Grant Proposal Deadline	February 13, 2026
Executive Committee Approval	April 15, 2026
Grantee Notification	April 20, 2026
Grant Awards Announcements	May 20, 2026
Grant Funds Distribution	May 20, 2026

2026 Education and Research Grants Chair:

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