

Q&A from LaSPACE

Louisiana NASA Space Grant Current Funding Opportunities

Wednesday, April 28, 2021, 5 pm on Zoom

LaSPACE Management Team in Attendance: T. Gregory Guzik, Director, tgguzik@lsu.edu; Colleen H. Fava, Assistant Director, colleenf@lsu.edu; Meaghin Woolie, Program Manager mwooli2@lsu.edu; Doug Granger, Flight Program Manager, dgrang2@lsu.edu; Aaron Ryan, Flight Instructor & Outreach, aryan21@lsu.edu

- You mentioned another program called RAP. It is not listed in your website, will it be announced in the future?
 - The RAP is an NASA EPSCoR program. Those are located on our epscor site -- <https://lanasaepscor.lsu.edu>
- I understand that most of the proposals are reviewed internally by your office. Can you talk about your evaluation/rating process (e.g., do all reviewers provide their ratings in some kind of scale or vote somehow)? Thanks.
 - We include the review form that we use to evaluate the proposals within the guidelines for each of our programs. We have internal reviewers with expertise and we evaluate only on the categories provided in those forms. The most important thing you can do is follow the instructions we provide in the guidelines. We will do rankings based off of the requirements of the proposal, ie follow budget guidelines, mission alignment, etc . Whenever BoR money is involved, no internal reviews occur except for compliance checks. Those reviews are handled by out of state reviewers. For all programs we now provide reviewer comments with all decision letters
- Can I apply for two programs (both LURA and LaSSO)?
 - If the faculty person is asking if they can apply for multiple grants, then yes. However we cannot simultaneously support the same student on multiple programs under our NASA NIFs programs (LURA, LaSSO, HIS, GSRA). If you apply for a LURA but it does not win but the project is in line with NASA/NOAA project lines, we may request that you modify the application and submit for a LASSO.
- For REA program, is it required to have a collaboration with NASA researchers? If yes, could you provide some ways to reach out NASA researchers? Thank you so much.
 - We do not require a letter of support from a NASA scientist. It can help in the review of your application. The proposal must, however, clearly indicate at least one specific Mission Directorate that the research aligns with and provide evidence of similar/related research occurring at NASA now.
- Does the senior design program needs \$4000 institutional match now?
- Can an institution Qualify for both HIS and LaACES?
 - Yes. An institution can have two completely separate LaACES & HIS awards. However, you could also propose to the HIS program to support a more robust LaACES program. The HIS funding would allow you to pay LaACES students as student workers, support professional development opportunities like guest speakers and tours of nearby NASA

facilities, and also to support the purchase of needed materials and travel to CSBF for the annual balloon launch.

- What type of match do you require? In-kind, State, Federal ...
 - You cannot match federal funds with federal funds, so no other federal grant monies can be used to match LaSPACE programs. State/local dollars, industry, and in-kind are all appropriate. It must be something your institution can certify as contributing to the program to be rolled into our match commitment to NASA. In-kind matching is a highly appropriate means of cost-sharing, as this shows institutional investment of time and resources toward a project.
- Does the senior design program need \$4000 institutional match now?
 - There is no strict match requirement, but we do suggest some match and we will likely have to require a match in the future.
- Regarding HIS program - how many students make up a team/group?
 - The expectation is that a HIS proposal will support 5 - 8 students. \$3000 direct to each student or 180 contact hours per student or a prorated combination of both. We do expect some direct funding for each student for a program like this. We do not strictly define the number of students, but since a majority of the funds must directly go to the students, it is expected that you will have at least 5.
 - 5 is not a hard limit however, you can not get the maximum grant with less. The intent is for the money to go to the student.
- Do 4+1 masters students qualify or is the LaSSO program strictly geared towards undergraduate students as mentioned in the CFP? Thank you.
 - We'll need a bit more information to make a final decision, but I think an undergrad program that culminates in a B.S. and M.S. would probably depend on where the student is in their curriculum and how the university is currently classifying them. More than likely they would be counted as a graduate student in the 5th year, but would qualify for a LaSSO as an undergrad in years 1 through 4. Let's discuss this further during this evening's meeting.
 - Clarification During the Meeting: Yes, the student is classified as an undergrad during the first four years of the program and so will be eligible for a LaSSO during those first 4 years.
- Does the LaSPACE K-12 / Outreach possibility apply to informal educators as well?
 - Absolutely! The outreach component is meant specifically for informal educators conducting scientific public literacy activities for the general public (at any age!)
- A member of the Louisiana Tech Aerospace Club wants to do the AIAA Design Build Fly Competition for his Senior Design Project next year. Would this qualify for the Senior Design Program grant?
 - Definitely! The program is designed specifically with this in mind. Many formal senior design projects include an external competition in their plans and our program is designed to help student teams cover costs like registration and travel.
- I am interested in physical risk reduction in the astronauts, is there any specific risk that is a priority to get the EpsCOR grant? Thanks

- Tonight's meeting will focus exclusively on questions related to Space Grant funded programs. Though we are open to holding additional Q&A meetings on other focus areas. Currently all of the NASA EPSCoR program competitions we run are closed, but it's never too early to start investigating possible research projects. We suggest you start with the NASA HEOMD website: <https://www.nasa.gov/directorates/heo/index.html>.

Attendee Demographics:

- 47 Total Participants (5 LaSPACE Management Team Members)
- 32 Faculty, 5 Staff, 3 Graduate Students, 5 Undergraduate Students, 2 Unknown
- 12 Institutions (BRCC, Dillard, Grambling, LaTech, LSU, LSU-Shreveport, McNeese, Northwestern, Southeastern, Southern, ULL, UNO)