The **NCDA Graduate Student Research Award** was established to honor graduate students who undertake exemplary research addressing topics related to career information, career development and career planning. This award includes a $500.00 grant to defray costs for a student-led research project approved by the student'smajor professor or professor overseeing the research, which may or may not be completed at the time of application. The student's major professor or professor overseeing the research must endorse the award application in writing in the form of a recommendation letter. Relevance, significance, and research design will be given primary attention in determining the award recipient. The award is selected by NCDA's Research Committee. View the list of previous [NCDA Research Grant Recipients](https://www.ncda.org/aws/NCDA/asset_manager/get_file/430638?ver=3576).

**Criteria for Selection:**  A Graduate Student selected for this award will have documented evidence for the following areas.

Minimum requirements for the Graduate Student include:

* Must be enrolled in a graduate education program at a college or university.
* Must include a reference letter with signature from their major professor showing approval of the research topic as being appropriate to their field of study.

The merits of the research proposal will be judged on the following 100-point scale:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Criteria** | **1**  **Poor** | **2**  **Below average** | **3**  **Average** | **4**  **Above average** | **5**  **Excellent** |
| Relevance to career development (weighted \*2 for a maximum of 10 points) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Clearly stated problem, with supporting evidence of the problem, and how research objective/aims to address |  |  |  |  |  |
| Significance of the study (discusses potential implications of study findings for practice, research, and theory) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Attention to and demonstrates consideration of issues of diversity |  |  |  |  |  |
| Based on relevant theory |  |  |  |  |  |
| Quality of literature review (relevance, scope, synthesized critical review) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Theoretical and empirical support for rationale and importance of the study |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hypotheses/research question(s) follow logically from review of the literature, theory, and problem statement |  |  |  |  |  |
| Methodology: Sound research design clearly identified and described  **Quantitative** (e.g., experimental,  correlational, longitudinal)  **Qualitative** (e.g., grounded theory,  ethnography, etc.) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Methodology: Quality of Measurement instruments  **Quantitative :** Reliability, validity,  appropriate to sample  **Qualitative:** trustworthiness, how  were interviews/questions (if used) were developed, researcher positionality |  |  |  |  |  |
| Data analysis (proposed or conducted) is appropriate/relevant to the data and hypotheses/research questions |  |  |  |  |  |
| Data analysis (proposed or conducted) demonstrates quality in the analysis |  |  |  |  |  |
| Originality of proposed research |  |  |  |  |  |
| Quality of study contribution to the field/literature |  |  |  |  |  |
| Organization and writing quality of proposal |  |  |  |  |  |
| Budget clearly linked to study aims |  |  |  |  |  |
| Reasonable timeline |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dissemination plan |  |  |  |  |  |
| Overall evaluation of the entire proposal |  |  |  |  |  |

Graduate students interested in submitting a proposal for this research award should follow the guidelines outlined **here**. (link to the coversheet)