

Career Development Beyond the Classroom Grant

2026–27 ASC Career Success Grants | Call for Proposals

Purpose

This grant supports initiatives that expand career development opportunities beyond the classroom, equipping Arts & Sciences students with career readiness skills, industry connections, and experiences that prepare them for life after graduation.

Projects may include:

- Experiential learning opportunities (internship courses, job shadow programs, externships, industry site visits)
- Alumni engagement initiatives (career outcome stories, alumni panels, mentoring programs)
- Programming tailored for key student groups identified in the [2025-28 ASC Career Success Strategic Plan](#) (first-generation college students, international students, graduate students).

Graduate student focus:

Proposals for programs serving graduate students should support activities that explore or prepare students for careers beyond the professoriate.

Why Co-Curricular Activities Matter

Students benefit most when classroom learning is complemented by applied experiences and professional networks.

This grant invests in initiatives that:

- Expose students to real-world career environments
- Strengthen industry and alumni connections
- Build confidence, transferable skills, and career readiness

We hope these grants serve not just as one-time investments, but as seeds for ongoing innovation in how we prepare students for meaningful work and lives.

Contact: Addie Cheney.45@osu.edu

Application deadline: Feb. 6, 2026, 6 p.m. ET

Decisions announced: Mar. 6, 2026

Maximum award: \$5,000 (for use during the 2026–27 academic year; must be spent by May 1, 2027)

Apply online: [Proposal Submission Form](#)

1. Eligibility

- Full-time faculty and staff in the College of Arts and Sciences (Columbus campus)
- Proposals may be submitted individually or collaboratively across units
- Before submitting, applicants should meet with the Director of Career Development (Addie Cheney, cheney.45@osu.edu) to discuss alignment between project goals and Career Success priorities, and to explore how Career Success resources or services could be incorporated into the project
- All proposals must include at least 20% departmental or center match (e.g., \$700 for a \$3,500 request)
- For collaborative proposals, matching funds may be pooled across units
- All funds must be spent by May 1, 2027

2. Deliverables

Deliverable	Due Date
Midyear update	January 30, 2027
Final report	June 30, 2027

Recognition of Support

Awardees are required to acknowledge ASC Career Success as a funding partner in any related digital, print, or promotional materials (e.g., event flyers, webpages, programs) and in verbal remarks at funded events. To ensure consistency, please coordinate with the ASC Career Success Marketing Manager to secure the correct Career Success logo and branding guidance.

Career Success Syllabus Statement

For any projects involving academic courses, Grant Directors are encouraged to include a Career Success statement in their course syllabus to raise student awareness of available services (see Appendix for copy/paste template).

3. Proposal Instructions

Submit your application through the [Proposal Submission Form](#). Please note that some sections will have character limits. You will be asked to provide the following:

- Project title
- Overarching goal(s) and measurable outcomes
- Target audience and student impact (who will be reached, how many, and how career development will be advanced)
- Statement of how the proposal addresses any of the preferred criteria (see section 4 below)
- Names and contact info for:
 - Grant Director/PI
 - Department manager (for fund transfers)
- Amount requested
- Implementation semester(s)
- A detailed budget, outlining anticipated costs (e.g., personnel, travel, materials, marketing, catering)
- A project timeline, including key milestones and deliverables
- A brief plan for evaluating project success
- A letter of support from your chair/director confirming departmental match and commitment to offering or supporting the initiative

4. Review Criteria & Process

To be competitive, proposals should make a compelling case that this investment will meaningfully expand career development opportunities for ASC students.

Required:

- Clear impact on career development beyond the classroom
- Specific, measurable objectives
- Secured matching funds and departmental support
- Feasible budget and timeline
- Appropriate use of university or college-supported resources (e.g., Handshake, GoinGlobal, Big Interview, Beyond the Professoriate, Ohio Union Activities Board, Barnett Center, Keenan Center)

Preferred/Priority:

- Sustainable initiatives that extend beyond the grant
- Collaboration between departments/centers
- Significant reach (number of students impacted)
- Focus on high-priority students (i.e., first-generation, international, graduate students)
- Initiatives that serve both undergraduate and graduate populations
- First-time applicants building new connections with Career Success

Review Process:

Proposals will be reviewed by a committee of past grantees, Career Success staff, and other ASC career development stakeholders. Reviewers will assess the proposal in relation to required and preferred criteria.

Future Participation

Grant Directors may be invited to serve as proposal reviewers in future rounds of the ASC Career Success Grant program. We encourage past grantees to continue supporting this initiative by sharing insights and strengthening our growing network of career champions.

5. Eligible Projects and Funding Uses

Examples of Fundable Projects

- Development of an internship course with employer engagement
- Job shadow or externship programs
- Career mentorship programs
- Alumni or industry panel events
- Marketing materials to promote experiential learning
- Student travel or project costs for applied learning experiences
- Departmental webpages showcasing alumni outcomes

Allowable Costs

- Faculty/staff supplemental compensation for work outside normal duties
- Site visit costs for establishing experiential opportunities
- Guest speaker honoraria
- Student wages for project support
- Materials, registration fees, travel, and marketing expenses
- Refreshments for in-person networking or engagement events

Compensation Note: Any additional pay is subject to ASC College and HR review and approval. Approval is not guaranteed; if not approved, funds must be reallocated to allowable costs.

Experiential Learning Note: For internship-focused proposals, applicants are strongly encouraged to consult with Joi Brihm-Spann, Assistant Director of Experiential Learning & Opportunities (brihm-spann.1@osu.edu).



Appendix: Career Success Syllabus Statement

Career Success

The [Center for Career and Professional Success](#) (Career Success) supports all undergraduate and graduate students in the College of Arts and Sciences. More than resumes, ASC Career Success provides specialized guidance that centers your liberal arts education as a distinctive asset to deliver maximum versatility in today's job market. Our professional [Career Coaches](#) offer appointments for career exploration and planning; learning how to search for a job; review of resumés and cover letters; and practice interviews. Coaches can also help you apply for the [Career Accelerator Fund](#). Our team coordinates [fairs, expos, and employer information sessions](#) to help you connect with industry experts; our [Career Treks](#) and [Match Mentor](#) program offer the opportunity for deeper engagement with industries and OSU alumni.