

AORN RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM

AORN is dedicated to incorporating the best available scientific evidence as a foundation for perioperative nursing practice to provide quality patient care.

AORN believes that:

- Research evidence should be the foundation for perioperative nursing practice.
- Evidence-based practice is fundamental to quality patient care.
- Incorporating research findings into perioperative nursing practice is critical to improve patient outcomes.

The AORN Research Grants Program supports high-quality research studies that contribute to the development of the science of perioperative nursing. AORN Foundation-funded grants promote diversity of research topics and support investigations that demonstrate scientific rigor to advance the field of perioperative nursing. All AORN research grants relate to the AORN Research Priorities. Awards are administered by AORN. Allocation of funds is based on the:

- congruence of the research focus with the AORN Research Priorities (<https://www.aorn.org/guidelines-resources/clinical-resources/nursing-research/nursing-research-priorities>),
- quality of the grant proposal,
- rigor of proposed research study,
- ability of the applicant to conduct the study, and
- applicant's justified budget.

Please note: These research grants support high-quality research studies only, not quality improvement or evidence-based practice projects. Clinical studies are given priority. Study findings must be generalizable beyond the sample and setting of the project.

AORN Foundation Nursing Research Grant	Awards to \$20,000	Application Deadline: July 31, 2026 Award Notification: November 15, 2026
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ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The Principal Investigator (PI) is required to be a registered nurse with a current license, either working in a perioperative setting or one whose proposed research study is focused on perioperative practice issues.

- Minimum of a master's degree in nursing or currently enrolled in a doctoral program in nursing (PhD or DNP).
- PIs who have previously received AORN grant funding are ineligible for additional funding during the lifetime of the original grant award (defined as date of receipt of the grant to closing date of grant).
- Members of the AORN Nursing Research Committee, the AORN Board of Directors, and AORN Board of Trustees are ineligible for funding during their term of service.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS

1. All applications must be submitted via the online submission system. Additionally, all submitted information must be in English. Applications sent in by other methods (i.e., US Postal Service, email, fax, etc.) will not be reviewed or considered for funding.
2. Late submissions will not be accepted.
3. Applications must adhere to requirements for format, content, length limitations, and necessary supporting materials as outlined in the checklist below. Failure to follow the guidelines for preparation of the grant proposal will result in the application not being reviewed.
4. Adhere to a 2500-word limit for the project proposal. Proposals that exceed the word limit will not be reviewed. (Appendices are not included in word limit)
5. When more than one investigator is listed, the first individual named will be the person with whom AORN will communicate and will be considered the applicant and responsible investigator for conduct of the research.
6. Brief progress reports are due quarterly until the research project is completed. The final report will be due 90 days following the end of the 2-year funding period. Dissertations are not accepted as final reports.
7. If a grant is awarded as the result of this application, the applicant becomes the grantee and assumes all legal and financial accountability for the awarded funds and for the performance of grant support activities. Any deliberate withholding, falsification, or misrepresentation of information could result in administrative actions including, but not limited to, the withdrawal of an application.
8. Upon completion of the study, the grant recipient will be expected to submit a proposal for either an in-person poster or podium presentation at the AORN Global Surgical Conference and Expo or a virtual presentation at the AORN Perioperative Nursing Research Symposium.
9. Grant recipients will be expected to submit a manuscript to the *AORN Journal* for peer review and consideration of publication upon completion of the study.

CHECKLIST FOR CONTENT OF RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

- ☐ The Project Proposal narrative should include the following:
 - ☐ Abstract (limited to 250 words or less)
 - ☐ Introduction
 - Purpose statement to include a description of how the study is linked to the AORN Research Priorities
 - Background and relevant literature review
 - Research questions or hypotheses
 - Significance of study to perioperative nursing
 - ☐ Theoretical or conceptual framework or rationale

- Methods
 - Design and description of variables
 - Sampling approach (i.e., type, sample size calculation and justification, recruitment procedures, setting, inclusion/exclusion criteria)
 - Procedures (i.e., data collection plan, protection of human subjects)
 - Instruments (i.e., title, author, description, evidence of instrument reliability and validity; include a copy of all instruments and permissions in Appendices)
 - Data management and analysis plan
- Implications for perioperative nursing practice and originality of research
- Plans for dissemination of results
- Budget: Budget with justification for each category of expenses, using the AORN Budget Form. Do not include expenses incurred prior to submitting the grant application.
- Appendices: Appendices must be uploaded to the proposal application as applicable. Legible scanned copies of requested forms will be accepted. None of the Appendices are included in the word limitations for the proposal body.
 - Curricula vitae for:
 - the PI,
 - each member of the research team and consultants, and
 - faculty advisor, if the proposed study is a student research project.
 - Letters of support from:
 - any consultants who will be involved in the project,
 - any other researchers or institutions collaborating on the project, and
 - an administrator of the institution employing the PI or the supervising faculty member if the project is a student research study.
 - Data collection instruments:
 - copy of each instrument,
 - scoring instructions, and
 - copyright release or permission for use of instruments.
 - List of references cited in the project proposal
 - Research timetable
 - Other Charts/Tables/Graphs that help illustrate project proposal
 - IRB or ethics board approval letter

<https://www.aorn.org/guidelines/clinical-resources/nursing-research>