

Justice Studies Mellon Collaborative Research Grants

Program in Justice Studies

The Program in Justice Studies at UNO is pleased to invite applications for our third annual collaborative research grant competition, supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's "Collaborative Public Humanities in Action at UNO" initiative. The grants aim to jumpstart student research projects, recognize faculty mentorship, and encourage meaningful community engagement in the practice of "justice research," especially at the crucial moments in which students are developing and launching their dissertation projects.

Proposals should be submitted by collaborative teams composed of one Ph.D. or M.A. student, one UNO faculty mentor (full-time or part-time), and one or more community partners. In general, each award will provide the faculty mentor with \$1,000 in additional compensation (plus fringe) or \$1,500 in research funds from the UNO Foundation; an unrestricted \$1,000 stipend for the student; and an unrestricted \$1,000 stipend for the community partner. Proposed deviations from this budget will be considered as long as they foreground community engagement. Students who received this grant previously and have made substantial progress on their projects are invited to apply for another round of funding, but these proposals will be considered lower priority than those submitted by first-time applicants.

Faculty members may apply for more than one grant or combine multiple students and community-based collaborators in a larger proposal. Students enrolled in Justice Studies and supervised by Justice Studies-affiliated faculty will be given priority consideration, but the competition is also open to other UNO graduate students and their mentors.

To apply, the student should submit to justice@uno.edu a 500-word summary of the proposed research project, its academic and social significance, and the roles and responsibility of all project personnel, including one clearly-identified faculty mentor. Also identify the proposed community partner(s) and attach an email or screenshot from a representative of the partner organization confirming their willingness to collaborate and explaining the broad nature of their participation.

For full consideration, apply by April 3, 2026. Funds will be made available immediately. Student award recipients will need to collect IRS W-9 forms from their community partners and submit them by June 1 so all monies can be disbursed by June 30, 2026. Students also agree to present their research at a public program sponsored by Justice Studies during the 2026-27 academic year.