

# VT CoE Major Grants Initiative (MGI): Faculty Information Session

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# Purpose & Overview of Tracks

- Launching the **Major Grants Initiative (MGI)** to secure large-scale, high-impact research funding
- Supports pursuit of center/institute-level grants (think of NSF ERC, STC; DOE EFRC; NIH P50/U54, and others)

Two funding tracks:

- Track 1 – Team Formation (\$50K)
- Track 2 – Strategic Expansion (\$200K)

Designed to seed new collaborations and scale established teams

# Key Dates & Timeline

Proposal Deadline: April 24, 2026 (11:59 PM)

Award Notifications: NLT July 31, 2026

Feedback to Faculty Champions: August 2026

Submit via the portal as a single PDF using the designated template

# Track 1: Objective

Facilitate new interdisciplinary collaborations

Build teams in emerging research themes at VT

Lay the foundation for future center-level proposals

Encourage external partnerships to enhance competitiveness

# Track 1: Eligibility and Expectations

- Open to new or emerging teams with at least three CoE faculty members from **three different disciplines**
- Teams should aim to publish collaboratively and submit at least one external grant application together in the first year

Final deliverable:

- ERC (or equivalent)-style white paper, or
- External proposal with \$2M+ VT budget

The intent is to position for future Track 2 applications

# Track 2: Objective

Scale up well-established interdisciplinary teams

Propel teams to submit center-scale proposals within 2 years

Serve as a **forcing function** for timely proposal readiness

Enhance external competitiveness through strategic investment

# Track 2: Eligibility and Expectations

Open to existing interdisciplinary teams

Teams must include faculty from at least two CoE departments and at least one internal partner from other VT colleges or institutes

**Deliverable:** Draft center-level proposal within 12 months

Faculty line requests are permitted for exceptional, strategic cases

# General Eligibility Criteria

- Track 1: The lead must be Associate Professor or higher
- Track 2: The lead must be a Full Professor
- Strongly encourage collaboration across CoE departments, and other VT colleges/institutes
  
- VT must lead the external grant proposal prepared as a part of this call and receive the largest portion of the total budget
- Track 2: External collaborators are welcome (please include formal collaboration letters from the external partners)

# Proposal Requirements

- Use the required template (different for each track)
- Limit: 5 pages max (excluding cover, refs, letters, appendices)
- Formatting: 1" margins, 11 pt font or larger
- Submit as single PDF via online portal.
- Track 2 must additionally include:
  - Collaboration letters from external partners
  - A one-page document listing joint publications & prior submissions

# Review Criteria

- Technical Merit & Alignment
- Team Qualifications & Interdisciplinary Strength
- Research Plan & Feasibility
- Potential for Large-Scale Funding
- Justification for Faculty Lines (Track 2 only)

# Reporting Requirements

- Track 1: ERC (or equivalent)-style pre-proposal or \$2M+ external proposal within 12 months
- Track 2: Draft of a full center-level proposal submitted to the CoE Research Office within 12 months
- These deliverables ensure teams are proposal-ready for major opportunities