Call for Proposals:
Virginia Tech College of Engineering Major Grants Initiative (MGI): Scaling Scholarship Program

Fall 2026 Proposal Submission
Submission Window Opens: September 21, 2026
Deadline: **November 13, 2026 at 11:59 PM**
Submit proposals as a single PDF through the designated submission portal.

Spring 2027 Proposal Submission
Submission Window Opens: November 16, 2026
Deadline: **February 5, 2027 at 11:59 PM**
Submit proposals as a single PDF through the designated submission portal.

Purpose
The College of Engineering is excited to announce the **Scaling Scholarship Program** as part of the broader Major Grants Initiative (MGI). Virginia Tech faculty are publishing groundbreaking research in top-tier journals and premier conference venues. The Scaling Scholarship Program recognizes that such scholarship is not only a marker of academic excellence but also a critical starting point for building major research initiatives. This program encourages faculty to strategically connect their latest research outputs to future large-scale funding efforts, positioning today's scholarship as the seed for tomorrow's center- and institute-level grants. By supporting the dissemination of high-impact research, the College aims to enhance Virginia Tech's global visibility and accelerate its trajectory toward research leadership.

Support Offered
Each selected submission will be eligible for up to $4,000 in support. This funding is intended to offset scholarship-related expenses, including article processing charges (APCs), open access fees for journal publications, conference registration and publication fees, or other dissemination costs. While the proposal must focus on a specific paper, the use of funds does not need to be tied exclusively to that paper.

Each eligible faculty member may submit no more than one proposal to this program. A limited number of support packages will be awarded annually, subject to the availability of funding.

Eligibility and Application Instructions
We invite faculty members to submit for consideration any peer-reviewed journal article or conference paper published or accepted between January 1, 2026, and the submission deadline.

For each paper you wish to submit, please prepare a brief document (maximum one page, not counting acceptance letters and supporting documentation) that addresses the following:

1. **Scholarly Impact and Pathway to Large Initiatives**
    - Explain why this paper represents a significant advance in your field (novel ideas, methods, results, or impacts)
    - Articulate how this research could scale toward a center- or institute-level funding opportunity. Mention any specific large-scale mechanisms you plan to target
2. **Selectivity and Prestige of the Venue**
    - Clearly explain the prestige of the journal or conference
    - Provide specific evidence wherever possible (e.g., acceptance rates, impact factors, ranking within the discipline)
3. **Funding Sources**
    - List any grants or contracts that supported the research presented in the paper

This exercise is intended to serve as a *forcing function* to encourage faculty to think about how high-quality scholarship can serve as the foundation for scaling up their research programs.

Selection Focus

The Scaling Scholarship Program seeks to recognize truly high-quality scholarship published in premier venues, including both top-tier journals and leading peer-reviewed conferences.

Submissions that most clearly demonstrate:

- Outstanding scholarly impact
- Placement in a highly selective venue
- A clear and credible pathway toward major external funding

will receive priority consideration.

Submission Requirements

Submit a single PDF file that includes:

- Copy of your accepted or published paper
- One-page narrative addressing the three points above
- A copy of the journal or conference acceptance letter (if the paper is not yet published)
- Any supporting documentation on selectivity (e.g., acceptance rate data, impact factor data if available)

Review Process and Timeline

Applications will be reviewed by a panel convened by the CoE Office of Research and Innovation. Selection criteria will include:

- The scholarly merit and potential impact of the work
- The selectivity and prestige of the publication venue
- The credibility of the pathway toward large-scale external funding

Contacts

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