

VIP Catalyst Seed Grant Opportunity: Call for Proposals:

Deadline: Friday June 20th 2025, 5.00pm.

What is VIP? The Vertically Integrated Projects (VIP) program engages students across all disciplines in long-term, large-scale, multidisciplinary research project teams led by faculty.

The program prioritizes early engagement in research through the participation of degree-seeking, lower division students in VIP teams. The VIP program uses a model that has been developed and refined at more than 50 U.S. and international institutions. We are soliciting teams of cross-disciplinary faculty to submit seed grant proposals to establish VIP teams within cutting-edge, cross disciplinary research themes, and engage students in leveraging AI technologies and data science principles within their projects.

Eligibility: Faculty VIP teams should comprise at least two full-time faculty working in collaboration across multiple disciplines. *Faculty teams from different colleges are preferred.* 4 VIP teams will be selected each year

Seed Funding: Faculty VIP teams will be eligible for up to \$46,500 in one-time seed funding to establish a cross-disciplinary VIP team.

VIP Informational Webinars: Tuesday April 22nd from 12-1 pm and Wednesday May 28th from 12-1 pm.

Projects that are selected cannot begin until research compliance approvals have been obtained.

VIP Faculty Leadership Information

1. VIP Faculty Mentor 1 Information:
 - a. Faculty Mentor 1 Name:
 - b. Faculty Mentor 1 Rank:
 - c. Faculty Mentor 1 Email:
 - d. Faculty Mentor 1 College:
 - e. Faculty Mentor 1 Primary Department:
2. VIP Faculty Mentor 2:
 - a. Faculty Mentor 2 Name:
 - b. Faculty Mentor 2 Rank:
 - c. Faculty Mentor 2 Email:
 - d. Faculty Mentor 2 College:
 - e. Faculty Mentor 2 Department:
3. Other faculty

VIP Team Project Proposal

4. VIP Project Title (30 characters or less):
5. Select which of the following cross-disciplinary themes your VIP team project is related to. Check all that apply.
 - a. Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias/Falls
 - b. Artificial Intelligence/Data Science

- c. Cancer
 - d. Coastal Resilience
 - e. Criminal Justice/ Forensics
 - f. Cybersecurity
 - g. Education/Workforce Development/Entrepreneurship
 - h. Environment/Ecology
 - i. Futuristic Healthcare Delivery
 - j. IoT and Smart Cities
 - k. Neuroscience
 - l. Quantum
 - m. Substance Use/Abuse
 - n. Transportation
 - o. Other, if you checked other, please identify a cutting-edge, cross-disciplinary theme your VIP team fits into.
6. Provide 5 keywords that summarize your team's disciplinary foci, areas of interest, branches of inquiry, etc.,
 7. VIP Project Overview (300 words, max): Please describe for a student audience unfamiliar with your work, your team's purpose, what will be investigated and or research questions/design/objectives in a few paragraphs.
 8. Describe the structure of your potential VIP team.
 - a. How many people do you envision working on the team (10-20)? How many undergrads, graduates, etc.?
 - b. How many students (undergraduate and graduate) are you currently working with (committed to) on this research project this semester?
 - c. How many new degree-seeking students will need to be recruited for this VIP team? **Note: There must be at least 5-7 new freshmen/sophomores on the team.**
 - i. Freshmen (priority):
 - ii. Sophomores (priority):
 - iii. Juniors:
 - iv. Seniors:
 - v. Graduate:
 - vi. Total number of new students:
 - d. Team advisors are encouraged to make their VIPs as accessible as possible to multiple disciplines -- usually teams are open to all majors. From what disciplines will you recruit students?
 9. How will your project empower vertical integration of people, process, and/or product development? (300 words, max) Consider the following questions.
 - a. How will you bring new students and students from different disciplines/backgrounds to your VIP team as students graduate?
 - b. How will you manage/leverage existing students who are working on the project to contribute for more than one semester, and mentor new students coming in?

- c. Will there be different project phases (e.g. lit review, discourse analysis, data analysis, implementation, etc.) for VIP team members from different disciplinary backgrounds to engage with?
10. Artificial Intelligence and Data Science (AI/DS): Describe how students will engage with AI/DS within these project(s) (300 words, max).

VIP Sustainability:

11. Funding from the Office of Undergraduate Research for establishing a VIP team is only available for the first year. Describe your plan for seeking funding from additional sources for sustaining this project for the next 2-5 years. Your plan should list grant funding opportunities or industry/community partnerships you intend to pursue in support of sustaining your VIP team beyond the seed funding period. Please include a clear timeline of intended grant submissions.

Budget and Justification: Please use the attached excel spreadsheet to describe how the funds will be utilized in support of the VIP team research project and VIP students.

Funding Category	Allowable Expenses
Startup Funding and Summer Stipend (\$31,500)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VIP Faculty mentor(s) stipend (fringe must be included) • Postdoctoral stipend (fringe must be included) • Graduate student stipend (fringe must be included) • Consumables and supplies • Instruments / equipment • Additional summer student fellowship
Summer Scholars (\$12,000)- fixed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 UGR Summer Scholars @ \$4,000 each • 1 Graduate Scholar @\$4,000
Travel and Publication Costs (\$3,000)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty to attend VIP Consortium Meeting at GA Tech (registration, travel, and hotel) • Conference presentation - faculty (registration, travel and hotel) • Conference presentation - graduate student (registration, travel and hotel) • Conference presentation - undergraduate student(s) (registration, travel and hotel) • Undergraduates to present at Florida Undergraduate Research Conference (hotel and registration) • Undergraduates to present at National Conference on Undergraduate Research (hotel, travel, and registration) • Publication costs (including students as co-authors)

Commitments/Assurances: Note guidance/mentoring of the teams to address these logistics will be an on-going process supported by the VIP program staff.

12. Before submitting a VIP proposal, please confirm that you understand the following aspects of the program. I understand that:

- p. VIP teams are large, with at least 10-20 degree-seeking students each semester.
 - i. A minimum of 5-7 students must be degree-seeking freshmen and sophomores within a VIP team.
- q. VIP funding is one-time catalytic seed funding to launch the VIP team. It is expected that VIP teams will secure external funding for their projects so that they can become self-sustaining in future years.
- r. VIP programs are expected to be long-term, i.e. the VIP team should run over multiple semesters for years after the seed funding has been provided.
- s. VIP student applicants are not screened by GPA. While this may seem counterintuitive, years of experience have shown enthusiasm to be the strongest predictor of success in VIP.
- t. VIP students (undergrad and graduate) must be registered for specific Directed Independent Research (DIR) courses in the Spring.
- u. VIP teams must meet once every one to two weeks throughout each semester and the VIP Associate Director/GA will be invited.
- v. VIP Team Leader(s) will
 - i. Attend VIP Technical advisory group meetings 2x per year (introductory and at end of year with program evaluator) which includes progress assessment and data collection
 - ii. Respond to VIP business communications and emails related to VIP student interest to recruit VIP students
 - iii. Support (or delegate support) for offering DIR course credit to VIP students; and/or support pursuit of work-study opportunities as appropriate