



Commercialization & ENTR REsearch (CENTRE) Funding Initiative

Sponsored by the
Alex. Brown Center for Entrepreneurship

The CENTRE funding is an initiative of the Alex. Brown Center for Entrepreneurship at UMBC and provides funds for research that leads to potential commercialization of a product or service. Any UMBC faculty conducting research in either technical fields (technical entrepreneurship), or social/humanities fields (social entrepreneurship) is encouraged to apply for funding. Faculty who receive funds through this initiative are encouraged to file for a patent, expected to publish their research results, and be involved in commercializing the research outcomes. CENTRE funding prepares faculty for TEDCO MII funding (State of Maryland), Catalyst Funds, or possible awards from NEA, NSF, NIH, etc. Interdisciplinary collaborations (e.g. from humanities and technology) with faculty from different UMBC departments are strongly encouraged. Proposals submitted to the CENTRE initiative should contain the following sections:

- **Cover Page** (1 page – valued at 10% of proposal)
 1. Name of Primary Investigator, department, contact information
 2. Amount requested
 3. Abstract: Should include what it is about, why it should be funded, potential for commercial or social impact
 4. Signature of the department's Chair (email from the Chair is also fine)
- **Research Component: Concept Idea or White paper** (1 page – valued at 60% of proposal):
NOTE: The research component should be written in plain language that someone with a university degree in a different discipline should be able to understand the content.
 1. Description of the research to be done. Emphasis should be given on the importance of the problem and novelty of the proposed solution
 2. Existing attempts to solve the problem and why they did not come to fruition
 3. Preliminary results (if any) or indications suggesting that the proposed work is viable
- **Milestones, timeline and budget** (only 1 page – valued at 30% of proposal):
 1. Milestones with a specific timeline
 2. Metrics to measure each milestone
 3. Budget costs with justification for each item. Funds can be used towards student stipend, tuition (graduate and/or undergraduate), faculty summer salary, equipment, etc.

Award amount: Proposers may request up to a maximum of \$15,000 for a period of one academic year.



Important Dates

- Call For Proposals: every Spring semester
- **Submission date: June 15.** Email proposals to Vivian Armor, Director of the Alex. Brown Center of Entrepreneurship (armor@umbc.edu) and George Karabatis (georgek@umbc.edu)
- Proposal reviews: The submitted proposals are reviewed during early Summer
- Announcement of Award(s): June 30
- Start date: Beginning of Fall semester
- End date: End of Spring semester (start and end date are in the same academic year)

Evaluating Committee

- ENTR Faculty Fellows
- Director of the Alex. Brown Center for Entrepreneurship
- Director of ENTR Minor
- GPD of MPS on Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Leadership
- Dave Fink
- Wendy Martin
- Amy Froide

Distribution of Funds and mid-year review

1. The funds are transferred at the beginning of the Fall semester following submission of the proposal. They are to be used during the same academic year (Fall and Spring)
2. At around the mid-point of the effort there will be an review showcasing successful completion of the milestones up to that point and ensuring progress towards the final goal

Questions? Feel free to contact George Karabatis (georgek@umbc.edu)