

# Guidelines for the Evaluation of Ignite Grant Program – Applied Research Funding

## Social Sciences and Humanities Grants

The goal of the Ignite funding for applied research is to provide funding to encourage faculty and academic staff to apply their expertise and scholarship to the economic development of Wisconsin. Applied research activities improve the connection between knowledge and practice while promoting positive change in the state's economy. Potential benefits of these activities include fostering business expansion and improving profitability, creating jobs and enhancing workforce quality, reducing costs and increasing efficiency, and improving the quality of Wisconsin's products and services.

### Primary Evaluation Criteria Checklist

Humanities and Social Sciences grant proposals for Ignite – Applied Research funding will be read and evaluated against the following criteria. The overall rating will reflect the evaluator's assessment of how well the project addresses each of these areas.

1. The project fits the core purpose of the grant program: to apply research and scholarship to the economic development of the state. The economic benefit must be tangible and measurable. For projects with long-term economic benefit, applicants should clearly articulate the project's long-term potential and provide an outline for a strategy to realize it.
2. The project has potential for significant economic/societal impact within Wisconsin as well as potential for national and global impact in one or more of these areas:
  - Fostering business expansion and/or improving profitability;
  - Helping to create jobs and/or enhance the work force;
  - Reducing costs and/or increasing efficiency and productivity and/or improving sustainability;
  - Improving the quality of products, services, or the working environment;
  - Commercial adoption of a new technology, process, knowledge, or concept;
  - Promoting the competitiveness of business;
  - Demonstrable collaboration with industry; and
  - Creating positive change in Wisconsin's cultural/natural environment.
3. The proposed project demonstrates creativity and/or innovation and can be clearly differentiated from existing approaches/solutions.
  - The project idea/approach is new and compelling and is significantly different than that which has been taken by others.
4. The principal investigator (PI) employs a robust, appropriate research design with both achievable and measurable milestones. The project offers opportunity for student involvement.
5. There is a high likelihood of successful project completion within the fourteen (14) month grant period.
  - The project is feasible and has realistic objectives;
  - The project is likely to yield meaningful outcomes within the grant period;
  - The project has the active support of private sector or other partners; and
  - The project is sustainable or has the potential to leverage future extramural funding for further development.
6. The budget is cost-effective and appropriate to the scope of the project.  
**(The budget limit for Ignite applied research funding is \$50,000 for 14-month awards. For**

**collaborative proposals from multiple institutions, exceptions to the budget limit will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.)**

7. The project includes well-developed milestones and metrics for evaluating its impact at the end of the grant period.