UAB Grand Challenge

UAB Grand Challenge Full Proposal
Request for Proposals (RFP)

Introduction
The UAB strategic plan 2018-2023 “Forging the Future” provides a guide for our continued success as a world-class university. Our record in teaching, scholarship, patient care, and service demonstrates a rich history of serving society. Going forward, we will muster our individual and collective strengths to address significant and pressing needs resulting in positive and tangible outcomes for our university, our city, our state, and society overall. In other words, we will define grand challenges, address them, and work toward solutions.

What is a Grand Challenge?
Simply put, a grand challenge is a significant problem that when solved will positively impact a large number of people and society in general. It is large in scope and results from complex causes. Progress toward solutions requires a combination of innovative approaches, technologies, treatments, and/or policies. Cross-disciplinary and convergent approaches are essential. Example grand challenges include:

• Remove the threat of nuclear war from the world
• Provide access to clean water in India
• Reduce obesity in America
• Transition Los Angeles County to 100% sustainability by 2050
• Birmingham: The (healthiest/most livable/best public art) city in America

The UAB Grand Challenge will serve as an opportunity to unite university activities (teaching, research, scholarship, commercialization, patient care, service) along with the capabilities of partnering organizations to solve large-scale problems. It is not intended to hinder individual or departmentally-based activities, but it should augment and enhance them.

Full Proposal Guidelines for Submission
Teams are expected to approach UAB Grand Challenge funding as a catalytic seed grant and leverage initial financial support toward sustainable external funding. A UAB Grand Challenge may be supported by the institution for 3 years – possibly longer if unique opportunities arise. However, out-year funding is not guaranteed and will be contingent on adequate project progress and the availability of funds.

The submission of a UAB Grand Challenge planning grant proposal is a pre-requisite to submit a full proposal. Planning grant teams may submit a full proposal of no more than 15 pages, including:

• Title page (not included in page count)
  o Name of the UAB Grand Challenge;
  o Name and contact information for the Principal Investigator (must be a UAB faculty or staff);
  o List of identified team members and partners (individuals and/or organizations) and their roles in the project. This includes members from inside and outside of UAB;
  o A certification by the lead PI that all named participants have agreed to be on the proposal;
• Description of the problem to be addressed, including its importance to the State of Alabama and how it is generalizable to other states, the US, and the world;
• Short-term and long-term objectives, including an impact statement;
• Description of the alignment between the proposed UAB Grand Challenge objectives and the university’s strategic priorities;
• Timeframe to accomplish the project goals including milestones;
• Systems approach and implementation plan;
• Specific and general approaches to achieving project sustainability beyond the project period;
• Detailed plans for financial match toward the proposed UAB Grand Challenge project (see below);
• Short biosketches of the leadership team and a description of their commitment to the UAB Grand Challenge (not included in page count);
• A detailed and realistic resourcing plan to include faculty/staff costs, space needs, and programmatic costs (not included in page count);
• Letters of commitment and support, including from all collaborating deans and entities (not included in page count).

Financial Match Requirement

Full proposals must include detailed plans outlining financial match toward the proposed UAB Grand Challenge project. Financial match must equal 25% in Year 1, 50% in Year 2, and 100% in Year 3. If options for Years 4 and 5 are proposed, matching funds exceeding 100% of the UAB Grand Challenge budget request is required in each option year. Financial match may take two forms: (1) cost-share and (2) return on investment.

Cost-share may be provided by institutional sources (e.g., from within UAB) and external sources (e.g., from named project partners), and it must be documented in letters of commitment. Acceptable types of cost-share include cash and in-kind support such as:
- Faculty/staff/student effort (associated salary and fringe benefits)
- Faculty hires (salary, fringe benefits, startup)
- Travel
- Equipment
- Supplies
- Facility and equipment charges
- Service contract fees

Return on investment (ROI) includes funds raised in partnership with University Advancement and through the capture of external (non-UAB) funding via grants or contracts. Proposals must include fundraising plans involving investments, pledges, or contributions from donors (e.g., individuals, foundations, and industry). However, commitments for these should not be pursued prior to award notification. This will take place in coordination with staff from the office of University Advancement once the UAB Grand Challenge award is announced.

Applications also must describe efforts to pursue external funding from federal and state agencies, private foundations, and industry, detailing specific funders and award mechanisms. ROI projections will be recognized as good-faith estimates, but they must be reasonable and feasible. It is expected that ROI will start to accrue beginning in Year 2 and continue during and beyond the period of funding from the UAB Grand Challenge. An example of a notional plan for financial match is included in Table 1 below.
Table 1. Example Plan for Financial Match

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Source</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Option Year 4</th>
<th>Option Year 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UAB Grand Challenge Budget Request</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal Cost-Share</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$75,000</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External Cost-Share</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROI -- Fundraising</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$150,000</td>
<td>$180,000</td>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
<td>$5,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROI -- External Grants/Contracts</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$-</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
<td>$1,000,000</td>
<td>$2,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Annual Project Cost = $625,000, $750,000, $1,000,000, $3,070,000, $7,070,000

**Review Criteria**

During evaluation of full proposals, the following review criteria and scoring rubric (total 100 points) will be used to assess the overall merit of proposed projects:

- Importance/significance of the issue to be addressed (10 points);
- Potential for real interdisciplinary and/or convergent participation including genuine involvement of a wide segment of the UAB community, including faculty, students, and staff from the Arts and Humanities, Education, Social Sciences, Libraries, etc. (10 points);
- Potential for engagement of many/all facets of the university – research, scholarship, teaching, service, patient care, student life, community engagement, alumni, athletics, etc. (10 points);
- Opportunity to gain national preeminence for UAB (10 points);
- Alignment with UAB’s strategic priorities (10 points);
- Qualifications and disciplinary diversity of the leadership team (10 points);
- Partnerships with stakeholders outside the university (10 points);
- Realistic budget and justification including potential for access to, and sustainability of external funding (10 points);
- Strength of the implementation plan (10 points);
- A strong assessment plan, both formative and summative (10 points).

**Reporting**

The following reporting and requirements will be applied to the UAB Grand Challenge project(s):

- Brief quarterly report on project status, costs, schedule, and risk mitigation
- Detailed annual report due on the anniversary the project start date
- Annual symposia on or around the project start date
- Development of a plan to monitor overall progress using critical, project-relevant benchmarks and metrics (co-created with the UAB Grand Challenge Project Manager following award)

**Submission Information**

Full proposals are due by 5:00 p.m. CST on January 31, 2019 and must be submitted as a single PDF to grandchallenge@uab.edu.