

Annual Report

Office of Grants and Sponsored Programs

Introduction to the Office of Grants and Sponsored Programs

The Office of Grants and Sponsored Programs (OGSP) is committed to providing comprehensive support to faculty members engaged in grants and sponsored programs in support of their research, external impact, and curricular innovation efforts. We work with faculty across the grant lifecycle, from proposal development and submission to award management and close-out. As a small, primarily undergraduate institution, our faculty focus primarily on teaching. At the same time, many faculty maintain an impressive grant portfolio that supports their research, curricular change efforts, and external impact activities while providing invaluable experiences for participating Olin students. With 40 full-time faculty in AY24-25, 25 (63%) were either leading or part of a grant proposal team or managing active grants.



Susan M. Mihailidis

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Susan is responsible for working with faculty to support proposal development and submission. These are typically faculty-led projects.



Lori Parmet

Associate Director of Sponsored Programs

Lori is responsible for working with faculty to manage their awarded grants and to ensure compliance with Olin College policies and sponsor regulations.

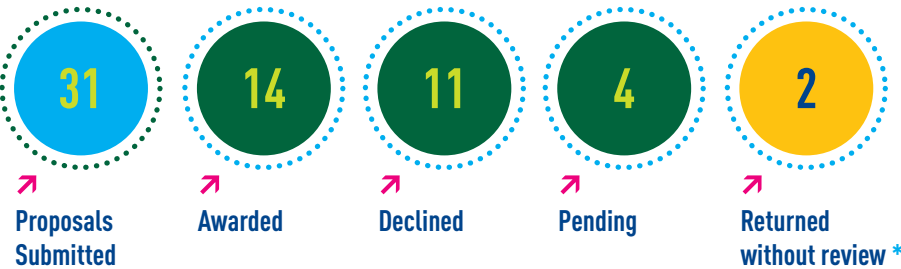
Changes in the Federal Funding Landscape

During the 2024 -2025 academic year, institutions of higher education faced unprecedented changes in the landscape for federal funding opportunities, including shifts in national priorities, accountability standards, and compliance requirements. These changes directly affect how Olin identifies federal grant opportunities, prepares proposals, and manages awards. The OGSP continues to monitor announcements for new guidance to adjust processes accordingly.

Olin Grant Portfolio Overview

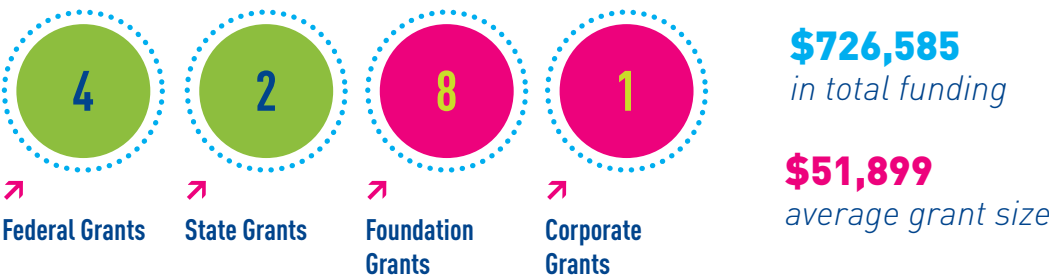
AY 24-25 • September 1, 2024 - August 31, 2025

Proposals Submitted in AY24-25



* In 2025, the National Science Foundation issued responses of "Returned Without Review" given uncertainty in specific program areas and to allow the PI to resubmit at a future date.

New Awards (15)



AY24-25 Grant Portfolio



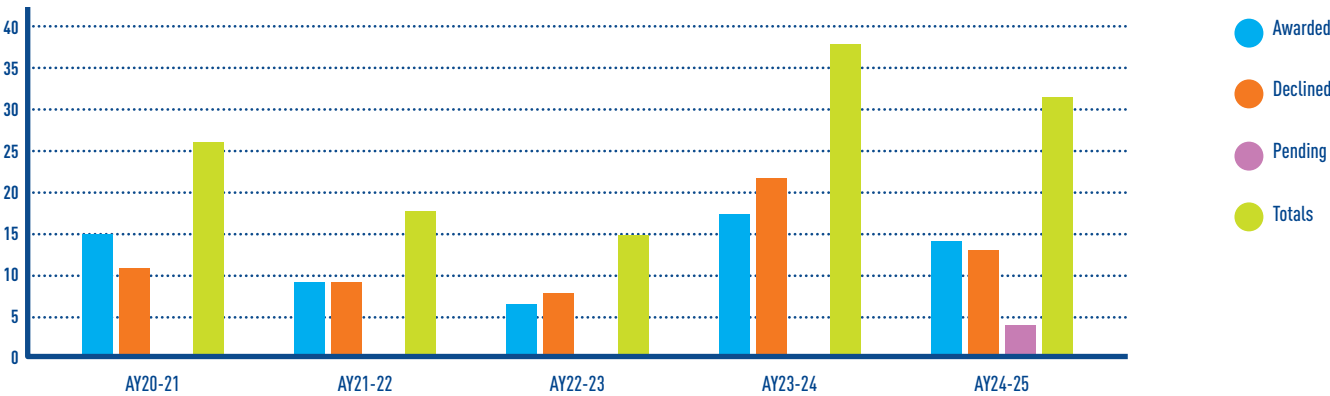
Proposal Acceptance Rates *



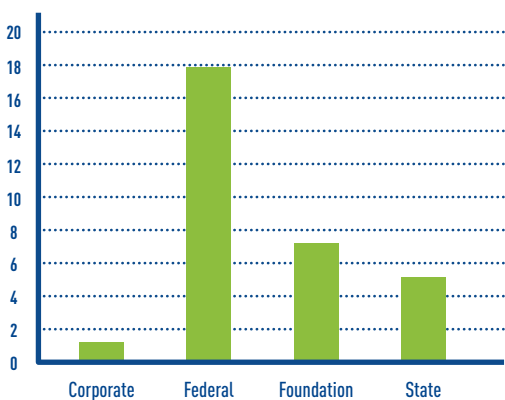
* **Note:** While acceptance rates are declining, we are still well above average acceptance rates of 25 – 30%. We are also increasing the number of submissions each year, and the total funds proposed by year are on the rise.

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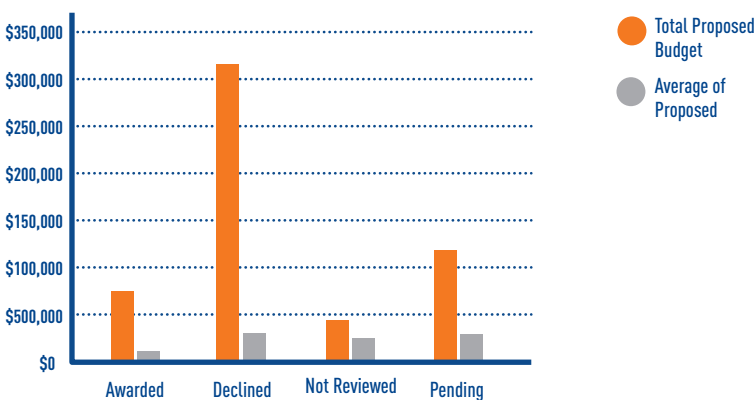
Proposal Submissions by Year



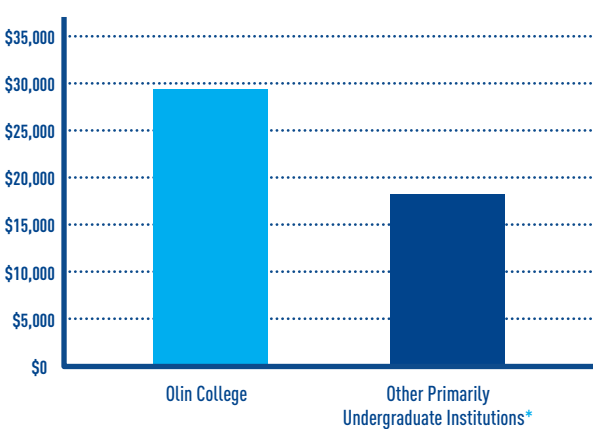
AY24-25 Grant Submissions by Funder Type



AY24-25 Proposal Budgets



Average of Awards Received Per Faculty Member 2024

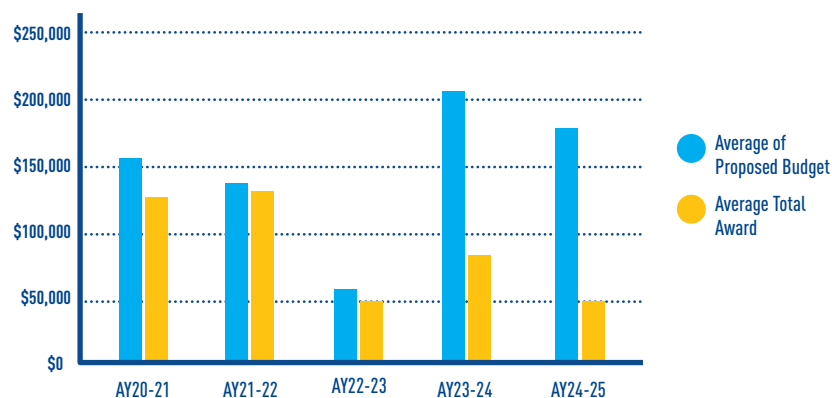


Olin College’s average of awards received per full-time faculty member is impressive, coming in significantly higher than other primarily undergraduate institutions. This chart includes data from 54 primarily undergraduate colleges; it includes total new grant award dollars in 2024 divided by the total number of full-time faculty members.

*** Data Source:** 2024 Colleges of Liberal Arts Sponsored Programs (CLASP) Annual Grants Review; Common Data Set reports. 2025 data were not yet available at the time this report was created.

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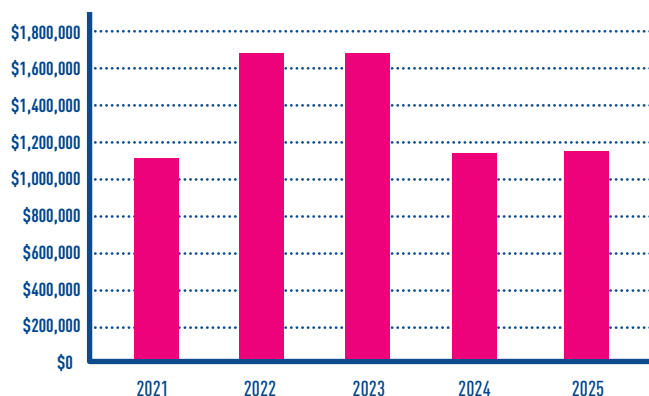
Averages: Proposed Budget and Awarded Grants*



* **Note:** AY24-25 grant submissions still include four pending proposals.

With the exception of the **Kern Family Foundation** and **Mellon Foundation** grants that led to increased grant expenditures in 2022 and 2023, Olin's annual grant expenditures have historically been steady at around **\$1M annually**.

Annual Grant Expenditures by Fiscal Year*



* **Note:** Fiscal year is defined as July 1 – June 30th



New Awards Received AY24-25

PI	Project Title	Sponsor	Total Award
Dabby, Diana	NSF REU Supplement	National Science Foundation	\$16,000
Donis-Keller, Helen	Technical Development of Industrial Scale Food-Grade Fiber Spinning Systems & Pilot Facility	Massachusetts Center for Advanced Manufacturing / Tender Food	\$110,000
Graeff, Erhardt	2025 Engineering Unleashed Fellowship	Kern Foundation	\$10,000
Graeff, Erhardt	Connecting Civic Virtue and Undergraduate Engineering	Lilly Endowment <i>(subaward from Wake Forest University)</i>	\$49,597
Hersey, Scott	Improving Air Quality in the Fairmount Corridor: Mobile Transit Exposure Assessment and Indoor Air Quality Filtration Strategies Interventions	City of Boston	\$179,340
Johansen, Elizabeth	Early Hearing Loss Detection for Improved Life Outcomes - Year 2	The Peabody Foundation	\$42,182
Lee, Chris	MIT Massachusetts Space Grant	MA Space Grant Consortium	\$3,000
Lee, Chris	MIT Massachusetts Space Grant - Summer & Fall 2025	MA Space Grant Consortium	\$60,000
Lee, Chris	Nationwide Eclipse Ballooning Project Continuation	National Space Grant Foundation	\$6,980
Linder, Benjamin	Agricultural Technology Production and Learning	The Schmidt Family Foundation / 11th Hour Project	\$60,000
Linder, Benjamin	PIT-NE Summer Institute 2025 Expansion	Arabella Advisors <i>(subaward from University of Massachusetts)</i>	\$39,600
Matsumoto, Steve	KEEN 2025-2026 Annual Support Package	Kern Family Foundation	\$25,000
Matsumoto, Steve	KEEN Seed Grant	Kern Family Foundation	\$5,000
Millner, Amon	Reach Every Reader: Phase 2	Chan Zuckerberg Initiative <i>(subaward from Boston University)</i>	\$121,886
Shuman, David Rodgers, Claire	Sustainability Across the Curriculum	Lemelson Foundation <i>(subaward from American Society for Engineering Education)</i>	\$8,000

Active Awards *(as of October 2025)*

PI	Project Title	Sponsor	Total Award
Dabby, Diana	PFI-TT: Development of a Novel Audio Technology that Applies Dynamic System Variability to Create Musical Variations for Personal and Public Applications.	National Science Foundation	\$290,000
Donis-Keller, Helen	Technical Development of Industrial Scale Food-Grade Fiber Spinning Systems & Pilot Facility	Massachusetts Center for Advanced Manufacturing / Tender Food	\$110,000
del Rosario, Zach	NSF ERI: Towards Data-Capable Engineers with a Variability-Capable Mindset	National Science Foundation	\$186,861
Goenka, Chhavi	Just Energy Hub: A learning lab for thriving together	VentureWell	\$30,000
Graeff, Erhardt	Connecting Civic Virtue and Undergraduate Engineering	Lilly Endowment <i>(subaward from Wake Forest University)</i>	\$49,597
Graeff, Erhardt	2025 Engineering Unleashed Fellowship	Kern Foundation	\$10,000
Hersey, Scott	Grant to support community-driven air pollution reduction in Roxbury	Barr Foundation	\$865,000
Hersey, Scott	Improving Air Quality in the Fairmount Corridor: Mobile Transit Exposure Assessment and Indoor Air Quality Filtration Strategies Interventions	City of Boston	\$179,340
Hersey, Scott	Air Partners: New Projects and Partnerships: Groundwork Hudson Valley	Groundwork Hudson Valley	\$55,000
Huang, Jean	Research for All (R4A): Expanding and Improving Undergraduate Participation in Research	Kern Foundation <i>(subaward from George Washington University)</i>	\$148,199
Johansen, Elizabeth	Early Hearing Loss Detection Program	The Peabody Foundation	\$81,043
Johansen, Elizabeth	Early Hearing Loss Detection for Improved Life Outcomes - Guatemala	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers	\$5,950
Lee, Chris	MIT Massachusetts Space Grant	NASA <i>(subaward from MIT)</i>	\$274,855
Linder, Benjamin	The Social and Environmental Entrepreneurship and Design Fund	Individual Donors	\$25,000
Linder, Benjamin	Native RE/ Sustainable Design	MIT	\$5,008

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PI	Project Title	Sponsor	Total Award
Linder, Benjamin	IDIN School Program	Colegio Santa Cruz	\$14,000
Linder, Benjamin	Agricultural Technology Production and Learning	The Schmidt Family Foundation / 11th Hour Project	\$60,000
Linder, Benjamin	PIT-NE Summer Institute 2025 Expansion	Arabella Advisors <i>(subaward from University of Massachusetts)</i>	\$39,600
Lynch, Caitrin	ADVANCING KnowLEDGE—Engineering Deans' Gender Equity—Initiative: Aligning Systems to Ensure Inclusion and Equity in Advancement of Diverse Women Engineering Faculty	National Science Foundation <i>(subaward from American Society for Engineering Education)</i>	\$10,000
Matsumoto, Steve	KEEN Annual Support Package	Kern Foundation	\$75,000
Matsumoto, Steve	2024 Engineering Unleashed Fellowship	Kern Foundation	\$10,000
Matsumoto, Steve	Collaborative Research: Research Initiation: Understanding the Opportunities and Impacts of Undergraduate Engineering Students' Adoption of Software Engineering Practice and Tools	National Science Foundation	\$137,800
Matsumoto, Steve	KEEN Seed Grant	Kern Family Foundation	\$5,000
Mbanisi, Kenechukwu	Indoor Flying Hummingbird Prototype	Hummingbird	\$273,500
Michalka, Sam	Social Technology Enterprise with Purpose (STEP)	VentureWell	\$29,600
Millner, Amon	Reach Every Reader: Phase 2	Chan Zuckerberg Initiative <i>(subaward from Boston University)</i>	\$121,886
Nugent, Carrie	Catalyst Fellows Funded Mentorship Program	LSST Discovery Alliance	\$49,995
Pratt, Joanne McCarthy, Jessica Townsend, Jessica	Developmental Learning Modules to Enhance Student Learning	Davis Educational Foundation	\$153,561
Ruvolo, Paul	Co-Designing Assistive Apps with Students Who Are Blind	Peabody Foundation	\$173,145
Ruvolo, Paul Lynch, Caitrin Michalka, Sam	EducateAI: Integrating Artificial Intelligence and Social Sciences via Immersive Learning Modules to Educate the Next Generation of Technologists	National Science Foundation	\$399,890

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PI	Project Title	Sponsor	Total Award
Ruvolo, Paul Michalka, Sam	I-Corps: Translation Potential of a Crowdsourced System to Support Widely Available, Accessible Wayfinding	National Science Foundation	\$50,000
Shuman, David Rodgers, Claire	Sustainability Across the Curriculum	Lemelson Foundation <i>(subaward from American Society for Engineering Education)</i>	\$8,000
Tow, Emily	Bureau of Reclamation's More Water Less Concentrate Challenge	Common Pool	\$265,000
Tow, Emily	Regional Onsite Energy Technical Assistance Partnership (TAP) New England Region	Department of Energy <i>(subaward from University of New Hampshire)</i>	\$50,690
Van de Zande, Georgia	Value of Olin Education Project	George Milne Gift	\$91,211

Pending Proposals

PI	Project Title	Sponsor	Total Award
Dean, Victoria Shuman, David	Campus Sustainability as a Living Lab: Fostering Engineer-Technician Classroom Collaborations Through Impact-Centered Education (Resubmission)	National Science Foundation	\$695,215
del Rosario, Zach	Economical Plastic Recycling via Additive Manufacturing as Quality Control	Environmental Research & Education Foundation <i>(subaward from Boston University)</i>	\$24,992
del Rosario, Zach	Collaborative Research: Distributed Design in Engineering Education	National Science Foundation <i>(subaward from Tufts University)</i>	\$96,433
del Rosario, Zach	CAREER: Illuminating the Assumptions and Limitations of Mathematical Models to Achieve Safer and More Equitable Engineering Solutions	National Science Foundation	\$649,944
Donis-Keller, Hellen	Technical Development of Industrial Scale Food-Grade Fiber Spinning Systems & Pilot Facility	Massachusetts Center for Advanced Manufacturing	\$160,000
Ferzoco, Alessandra	Embedding engineering students on farms for relationships, mindsets, and tool development	US Department of Agriculture <i>(subaward from Northeast Regional Food Business Center)</i>	\$99,403
Graeff, Erhardt	Technologies of Political Polarization and the Civic Responsibilities of Engineers	National Endowment for the Humanities	\$74,995
Millner, Amon	Reach Every Reader: Phase 2	Chan Zuckerberg Initiative <i>(subaward from Boston University)</i>	\$37,488
Zastavker, Yevgeniya	NLI: Design and Development: Community-Driven Game-Based Learning Module on Sustainability	National Science Foundation <i>(subaward from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute)</i>	\$61,998
Zastavker, Yevgeniya	Collaborative Research: Extending the realities of game-based learning to promote engineering judgment, student engagement, and belonging	National Science Foundation	\$349,878

Overview of Support for Grant Seeking and Research Programming

Resources and faculty support activities include:

- ➡ Updated [our website](#) to support Olin faculty and staff members engaged in grant-seeking.
 - ➡ Includes resources from proposal development and submission to award management and close-out, and links to various funding resource databases, templates, policies, and more.

Website key elements include:

- ➡ [A comprehensive guide to finding funding](#)
- ➡ [Proposal preparation guide](#)
- ➡ [Sponsored research policies and guidelines](#)
- ➡ Host our Research Roundtable Lunch and Learn series, covering topics such as starting up a research lab, proposal planning and budgeting, approaching program officers, and qualitative research methods.
- ➡ Host individual meetings with all faculty interested in submitting grant proposals and we meet individually with faculty once they receive an award.
- ➡ Launched a new Grant Proposal Preview Form to alert academic and administrative leadership members of new proposals in the pipeline.
- ➡ At the start of each new academic year, we host orientation sessions about the Office of Grants and Sponsored Programs with new faculty. This is part of the new faculty onboarding program.
- ➡ Host Research Fair each fall semester. At this event, faculty showcase their research projects to students and advertise open research assistant positions for the spring and summer. Nearly 100 students attend each year. We partner with OFYI to encourage first-year student attendance.
- ➡ In summer 2025, we hosted our first [Summer Research Educational Program](#) for summer students. The program included Lunch & Learn sessions on topics such as attending academic conferences, writing research papers, and applying to graduate school. We hosted a summer research poster session in Fall 2025 and invited the Olin community to learn about Olin students' exciting summer research projects.

Centralized Student Research Application Website

Funded via a KEEN grant, and led by Jean Huang, Associate Professor of Biology, we continue to host a centralized portal for hiring student researchers. Faculty posted open research positions for the academic year and summer 2025.

Community Research Seminar Series

We hosted ten research talks during the 2024-2025 academic year, including talks by Olin faculty and students and external speakers from other colleges and universities.

Olin Faculty and Students

- ➔ **Maya McKone-Sweet:** Biological Optical Phantoms: A Health Equity Approach
- ➔ **Victoria Preston:** Expeditionary Science and Applied Engineering: Deep Ocean Exploration

External Speakers

- ➔ **Netia McCray, Executive Director of Mbadika:** The Utilization of Unconventional Settings to Broaden Access to Manufacturing Engineering Education
- ➔ **Thom Burns, the Curator of the Harvard College Observatory's Astronomical Photographic Glass Plate Collection at the Center for Astrophysics:** Introduction to the Harvard College Observatory's Glass Plate Collection and its History
- ➔ **Meena Kothandaraman, Co-founder of Twig+Fish:** Reflecting Unique Realities to Further Design Potential
- ➔ **Andrés Plazas Malagón, Dark Energy Researcher:** The Vera Rubin Observatory
- ➔ **Ian Roy, Director of Design and Innovation at Brandeis University and the Founding Head of the Brandeis MakerLab/Head of Engineering Classroom:** Liberal Technology: Bridging the Arts, Sciences and Business to Innovate in a Connected World
- ➔ **Alfred Z. Spector, Visiting Scholar at MIT and a Senior Advisor at Blackstone:** Beyond Models – Applying AI and Data Science Effectively
- ➔ **Lorrie Cranor, Director and Bosch Distinguished Professor in Security and Privacy Technologies of CyLab and the FORE Systems University Professor of Computer Science and of Engineering and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University:** Passwords, Privacy Policies, and Potties: Using Research, Art, and Fashion to Inform Policy Makers and the Public
- ➔ **Carla E. Brodley, PhD, Founding Executive Director and Catherine Gill, MBA, Executive Director of the Center for Inclusive Computing at Northeastern University:** Broadening Participation in Computing by Identifying and Removing Institutional Barriers to the Generalization of this work to other areas of STEM

Human Subjects Research at Olin

Since 2011, Olin College has contracted with the Institutional Review Board (IRB) of Brandeis University for oversight of human subjects' research. The Brandeis IRB provides excellent service at a reasonable cost. Each year, the Brandeis IRB director and staff visit Olin for an annual meeting with Olin researchers. They give an overview of their services and answer questions about best practices in the ethical treatment of human subjects.