

AACOM Annual Research Grants Proposal Rubric 2025-26

Total Possible Points: 105

	Needs Improvement	Adequate	Exemplary
Proposal Quality and Presentation	(0-5 pts) Proposal is poorly organized, unclear, or contains frequent grammar, formatting, or citation errors that affect readability.	(6-8 pts) Generally clear, with minor grammar, formatting, or citation issues that do not impede comprehension.	(9-10 pts) Proposal is clearly written, logically structured, free of errors, and follows consistent formatting/citation style. Professional and compelling presentation.
Background & Rationale	(0-11 pts) Background is weak, unfocused, or lacks clear relevance; rationale is vague or poorly justified.	(12-16 pts) Background is relevant and somewhat compelling; rationale is present but not fully developed or supported with evidence.	(17-20 pts) Provides a compelling, well-supported rationale for the project with strong alignment to osteopathic medical education. Identifies a clear problem or gap, supported by literature/data.
Research Questions/ Objectives	(0-5 pts) Objectives are vague, missing, or not aligned with the project's rationale.	(6-8 pts) Research questions/objectives are stated but may lack precision, measurability, or alignment.	(9-10 pts) Clearly stated, measurable, and aligned with rationale. Hypotheses included if appropriate.
Methods & Project Design	(0-14 pts) Methods are incomplete, inappropriate, or not clearly linked to objectives.	(15-21 pts) Methods address objectives but lack full detail, innovation, or clarity. Some feasibility concerns may remain.	(22-25 pts) Methods are rigorous, novel (if appropriate), and fully aligned with objectives. Includes sufficient detail for replication (design, setting, participants, measures, analytic plan). Feasibility and ethical considerations are addressed.
Significance & Impact	(0-11 pts) Significance and broader implications are vague, missing, or unconvincing. Little to no connection to AACOM's Strategic Plan.	(12-16 pts) Addresses significance but with modest impact; some implications described. Proposal aligns with AACOM's Strategic Plan but is not well developed.	(17-20 pts) Demonstrates strong potential to advance osteopathic medical education, research, or practice. Clearly describes implications for future research, practice, and/or policy. Explicitly articulates alignment with AACOM's Strategic Plan priorities.
Innovation & Potential to Scale	(0-5 pts) Approach is routine, derivative, or unlikely to influence broader practice.	(6-8 pts) Some innovation is present, but approach is moderately original or only somewhat adaptable elsewhere.	(9-10 pts) Proposal introduces novel ideas, methods, or applications with potential for replication or scaling across institutions.
Dissemination, Sustainability & Budget Justification	(0-5 pts) Dissemination, sustainability, or budget plans are vague, missing, or misaligned with project aims.	(6-8 pts) Includes some plans for dissemination and budget justification, but they lack depth or precision, sustainability plans are limited.	(9-10 pts) Provides clear, realistic plans for dissemination (e.g., publications, presentations), sustainability, and budget use. All costs are appropriate and well justified.