

## Paul P. Fidler Research Grant

The National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition invites applications for the 2026-2027 Paul P. Fidler Research Grant, which is designed to encourage the development and dissemination of knowledge that has the potential to make a national impact and improve the transition experiences for college students. Application submissions will be accepted through **11:59PM ET Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup> 2026**. [Completed applications can be submitted here](#).

### Comprehensive Award Package

The Paul P. Fidler Research Grant award package includes:

- An award of \$10,000.
- Priority consideration for publication in the *Journal of The First-Year Experience & Students in Transition*.
- Registration to the [33rd National Conference on Students in Transition](#) (virtual, September 30-October 2, 2026), where the awardee will be introduced.
- Registration to the 34th National Conference on Students in Transition (2027), where the research grant findings will be reported.
- Announcement on the National Resource Center webpage, social media, and online publications.

### Eligibility

The Paul P. Fidler Research Grant competition is open to faculty, staff, and graduate students who plan to conduct research on issues of college student transitions.

The following individuals *are not eligible* and may not be included as part of proposed research teams: National Resource Center staff and fellows; current members of our National or International Advisory Boards; and students, staff, and faculty of the University of South Carolina system.

Proposals will be evaluated on:

- the extent to which they focus on issue(s) related to college student transitions. Though all issues related to college student transitions will be considered, special consideration will be given to proposals addressing transitions outside of the first year of college.
- how the proposal articulates a strong research design.
- suitability of methods for the research question(s). Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-method studies will be considered.
- the extent the proposal explores unique issues, subjects, analysis, participants and/or sample.
- potential for national impact on student success initiatives. The results of the research should be relevant to a broad audience.

Research must be the original work of the investigators and may not have been reported elsewhere. Please use APA 7 throughout the proposal.

**Submission questions?** Email [NRCRSRCH@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:NRCRSRCH@mailbox.sc.edu).

## Proposal Submission

Submissions are limited to one proposal per applicant. Only complete proposals will be considered. Please do not include personally identifiable information on this form.

**Brief Description** (800 character [~100-word] maximum) of how principal investigator's experiences have prepared them to conduct the proposed research.

### Research Study

**Proposal Title** (120 character [15-word] maximum):

**Keywords** (3 maximum):

**Abstract** (800 character [~100-word] maximum). The abstract should be a brief summary of the proposal's key points and purpose.

**Timeline** (800 character [~100-word] maximum). Provide a timeline of activities related to this research. Please include anticipated start date(s) and completion date(s) for all relevant activities (i.e., data collection, analysis, dissemination). Please note that research must be completed so that presentation of findings can be made at the National Conference on Students in Transition in Fall 2027.

## Methods and Procedures

**Primary Methodological Approach.** Please select the approach that best describes this study.

Qualitative	Quantitative	Mixed-Methods	Other
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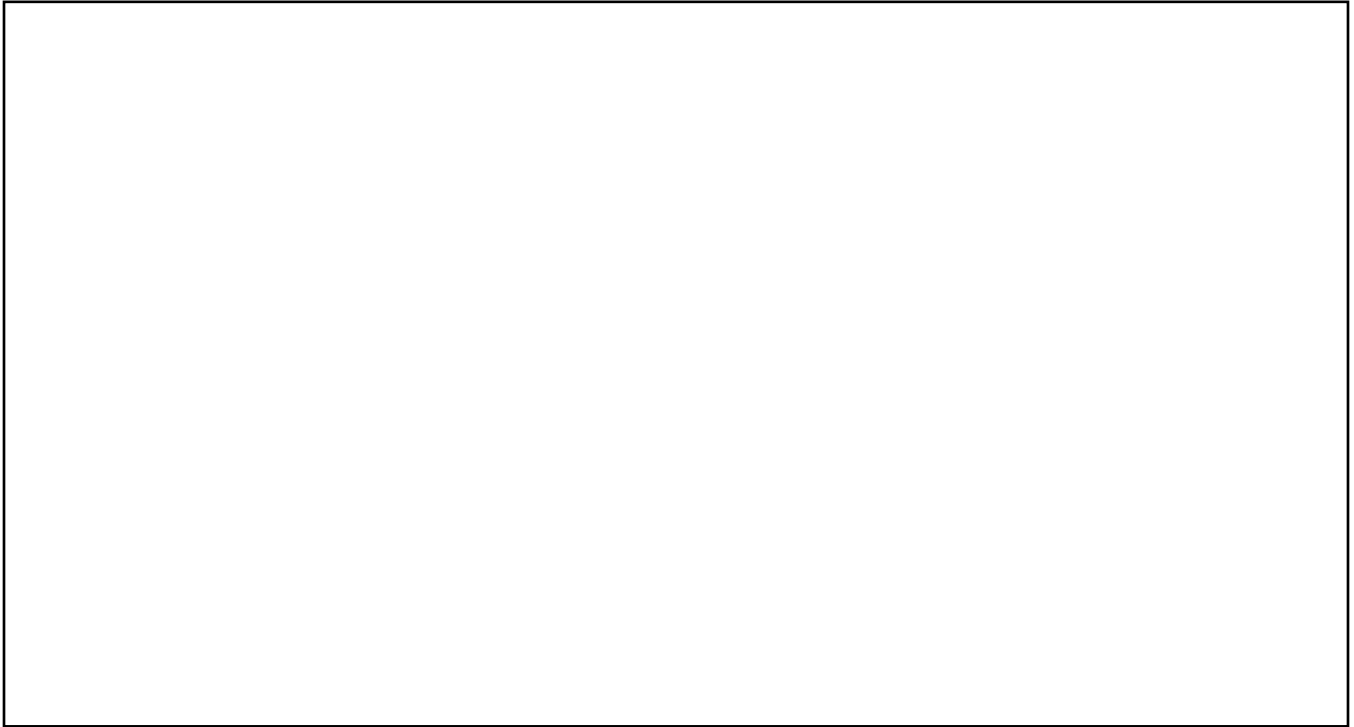
Methodological comments (*optional*; 150 characters). If you selected “Other”, please specify. May also be used to briefly specify the methodological approach (e.g., regression analysis, thematic analysis).

**Introduction** (2,400 characters [est. 400 words]). Introduce the issues/theories/programs to be addressed by your research. Be sure to include the rationale for the study, a discussion of relevant literature, and the proposal's connection to college student transitions.

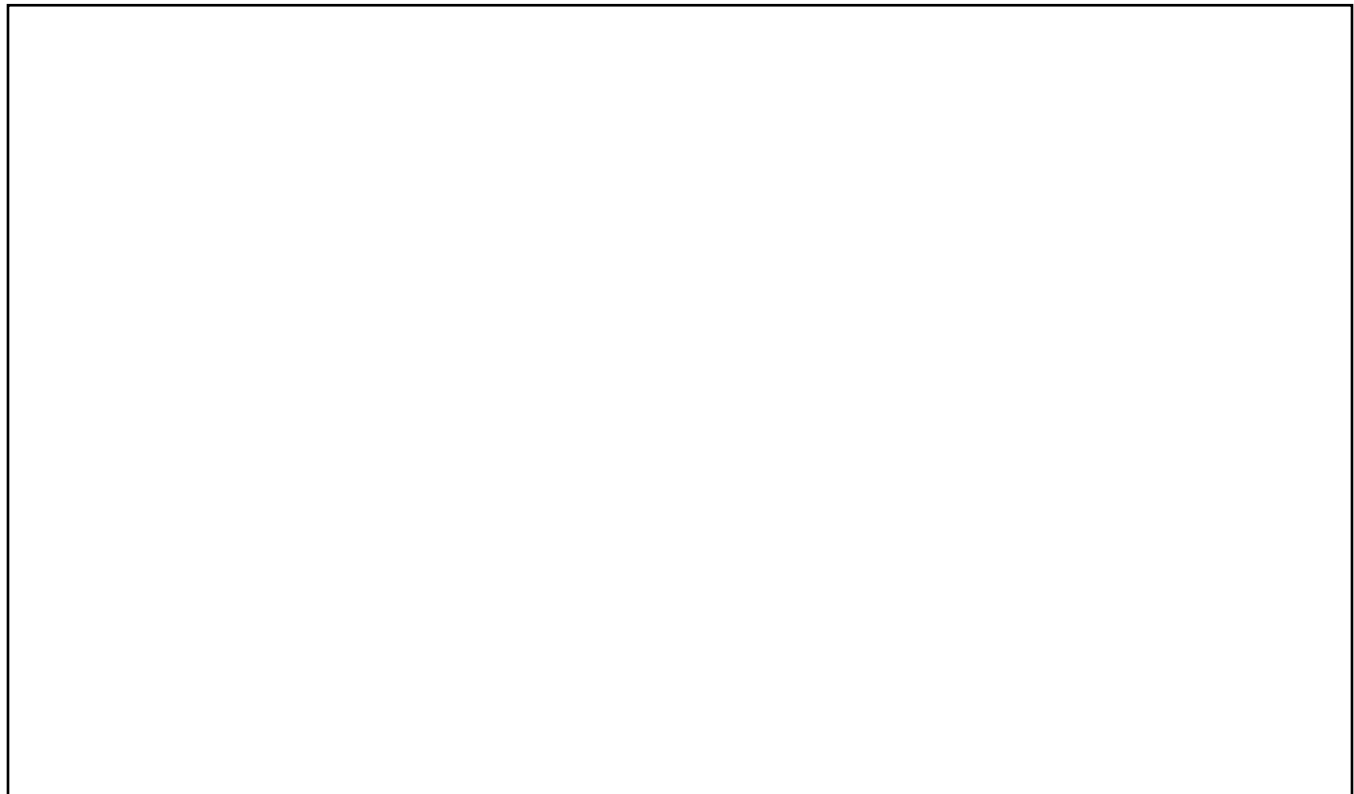
**Research Questions & Study Design** (2,000 characters [est. 300 words]). Describe the study’s research questions or objectives and overall design, including key design features.

**Sample & Data Collection** (2,000 characters [est. 300 words]). Describe the study sample or population, including selection criteria and recruitment methods. Include data sources and data collection procedures. Describe any instruments, measures, or protocols to be used.

**Plan for Analysis** (1,800 characters [est. 250 words]). Describe the data analysis approach, including analytic methods or techniques and how they align with the research question(s).



**Potential Implications** (1,600 characters [est. 200 words]). Be sure to discuss the potential impact of your findings on college student success during transition(s).



**Budget.** Provide an estimated, itemized budget for all expenditures that total up to \$10,000.

Complete only the categories relevant to your project. You may leave fields blank or enter \$0.

Personnel	
Equipment	
Supplies	
Travel	
Other	
<b>Total</b>	

Budget justification (1,500 characters [est. 200 words]). Provide a brief justification for the proposed budget, including how costs were estimated and their necessity/relevance to the project.

References (as needed, no word limit). Fully cite all sources referenced in your proposal. Please structure in APA 7<sup>th</sup> edition as much as possible, though all formatting may not work in the text box.