The Research Development Funds (RDF) are intended to promote increased research capacity at eligible general academic teaching institutions (Texas Education Code §62.091, Chapter 62).

The Research Development Program (RDP) at Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA) uses these funds to directly support the university’s research agenda and have the potential to increase competitiveness in acquiring external funds for research and development.

Use of RDP funds Funding is limited to research and development activities as defined by the on the basis of the following guidelines (Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (Texas Administrative Code, Part 1, Chapter 13, Financial Planning, Subchapter G, Rule §13.122):– Research Development Fund):

- Research means “a systematic study directed toward fuller scientific knowledge or understanding of the subject studied.”
- Development means “the systematic use of knowledge and understanding gained from research directed toward the production of useful materials, devices, systems, or methods, including design and development of prototypes and processes.”
- Curriculum development activities are also eligible for funding when “the primary purpose of the project is developing and testing an instructional or educational model through appropriate research methodologies (i.e., data collection, evaluation, dissemination, and publication).”

Research development requests must address the purpose of the Research Development Fund, i.e., to increase the research capacity of the university; therefore, requests that would benefit or address only the research interests of a single individual will not be considered.

Research Development Program Funds may not be used to supplant funds for research activities or to purchase or maintain equipment supported by other sources. However, Research Development Funds may be used for matching or cost-sharing. Researchers who have access to research funds from other sources are encouraged to exhaust all alternative funding pathways before requesting Research Development Funds.

In the expenditure of Research Development Program Funds, recipients are subject to all university policies and procedures, and local, state, and federal regulations.
Before initiating research that involves human subjects, laboratory vertebrate animals, or hazardous materials, researchers must obtain written approval from the chair of the appropriate university board or committee.

Recipients of Research Development Program funds must meet deadlines for deliverables, including periodic annual reports, as outlined by the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP).

Publications resulting from Research Development the RDP Funds shall will acknowledge the source of funds as the Stephen F. Austin State University Research Development Program. Copies of the publications shall will be filed with submitted to the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs ORSP and with the East Texas Research Center Center for Digital Scholarship in the Steen Library.

Deans submit requests for Research Development Program funds on behalf of their faculty and research staff to The director of the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs ORSP evaluates requests for Research Development Program funds and who makes awards based on criteria established by the director and the provost and vice president for academic affairs. For awards of $50,000 or greater, the director makes recommendations for funding to the provost and vice president for academic affairs.

For information on procedures to request Research Development Program funds, contact the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs.

Cross Reference: Human Research Subjects Protection (8.4); Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) (8.6); Recombinant DNA and/or Infectious Biohazards in Teaching and Research (8.9); Academic Appointments and Titles (7.2); Tex. Educ. Code §§ 62.091-.098; 19 Tex. Admin. Code §§ 13.120-.127

Responsible for Implementation: Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Contact for Revision: Director, Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

Forms: None

Board Committee Assignment: Academic and Student Affairs