



**Washington State Wine Commission
 Demonstration Research Grants
 2026-2027 Request for Proposals**

Preproposal Deadline: **November 7, 2025**

Deadline for submission: **January 23, 2026**

Download proposal applications at: [WSWC Research Grant Program](#)

Submit preproposal applications to [Washington Wine Research Grant Portal](#)

<p>About Washington State Wine Commission Research Grants</p>	<p>The Washington wine industry supports viticulture and enology research to advance Washington grape and wine quality through a competitive grant program administered by the Washington Wine Commission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding comes from assessments paid by all Washington wine grape growers and wineries. • Proposals are reviewed by the Washington Research Advisory Committee, a subcommittee of Washington State Wine Commission. Committee recommendations are approved by the Washington State Wine Commission Board of Directors.
<p>About the Demonstration Research Program</p>	<p>Program is designed to support exploration of new ideas (proof of concept) that could lead to further research, provide funds to translate past research into application in the vineyard or winery and fund short-term research trials that have potential to improve Washington State’s overall grape and wine quality.</p>
<p>Eligible Projects</p>	<p>Grant program designed for undergraduate and graduate students and faculty at Washington community colleges and universities and other short term, proof of concept trials. Projects must be relevant to Washington’s wine industry. Research priorities are at the end of this document. Preproposals must be completed on the Washington Wine Research Grant Portal.</p>
<p>Review Process</p>	<p>Preproposal applications will be reviewed by the Wine Research Advisory Committee; concepts with potential for funding will be invited to submit a full proposal through the grant portal and principal investigators invited to present at the Research Review on February 24-25, 2026. Teleconferencing available for those unable to attend. Industry members attending Review will rank proposals for importance; Wine Research Advisory Committee will make funding recommendations for approval by Wine Commission Board. Proposal evaluation criteria includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear definition of what is to be studied • Plan to keep detailed records • Inclusion of at least one replication • Use of valid comparison (control) • Relevance/value to Washington’s wine industry (see Research Priorities at end of this document)

Funding	Awards will be announced on or before the first week of May. Funding year runs from July 1 to June 30. Grant awards will be made in two installments - half upon receipt of signed contract agreement, half upon receipt of final report.
Budget Restrictions	Indirect costs/overhead charges are not covered. Funds can be used to cover student wages, supplies and equipment, and travel related to the project.
Reporting	A final report (<i>use Final Report template</i>) is due June 30, 2027. Exceptions may be made for projects involving wine trials with sensory evaluation. Students are encouraged to present project results at industry venues, such as Washington Wine Technical Group's annual Trial Showcase, Research Poster session at WineVit and may be required to present at WAVE (Washington Advancements in Viticulture and Enology). Final report will include a summary of the research written in layman's terms that describes project, methods and results.
Outreach	Final report and summary will be used to communicate research outcomes with shareholders and may be posted on the Washington Wine Commission's website, contained in the WAVE Report research newsletter and used for research articles for trade publications.
Publicity	All publicity/media/posters, etc. produced related to this project must appropriately acknowledge the Washington State Wine Commission: <i>This research was funded in whole/or part by all Washington State wine grape growers and wineries through the Washington State Wine Commission.</i>
Submissions	Preproposal applications must be submitted through the portal by November 7, 2025 . No exceptions made for late applications. Washington Wine Research Grant Portal Direct questions to: mhansen@washingtonwine.org



Washington State Viticulture and Enology

Research Priorities

July 1, 2023– June 30, 2024

Enology

- **Winery Sustainability** – Reduce winery energy usage. Develop methods for large and small wineries to recycle, reuse, reduce, repurpose harvest biomass, winery wastewater and winery waste, including glass wine bottles.
- **Fermentation Management** – Yeast and bacteria impacts on fermentation, sensory properties; control of microbiological spoilage; nutrient management practices; management at winery of diseased/disordered fruit; fermentation monitoring practices (cap extraction, process control, real-time monitoring methods), phenolic management, rapid analysis of juice, must, wine chemistries.
- **Wine Aroma and Flavor Compounds** – Optimize sensory compounds in wine; management of environmental issues impacting wine quality (smoke exposure, frost exposure); management of vineyard derived sulfur off aromas.
- **Wine Maturation and Stabilization** – Improve protein and cold stabilization to minimize flavor scalping, color loss and reduce energy usage; microbial stabilization, impact of filtration options on wine sensory qualities, fining methods, calcium instability, sulfur dioxide minimalization and management.

Viticulture

- **Vineyard Sustainability** - Improved vineyard floor management practices; soil fertility and carbon sequestration in vineyard soils, nutrient management, biochar for optimal vine and soil health; grafting and rootstock management and selection.
- **Vineyard Production, Efficiency and Profitability** – Improve water use efficiency/water savings and water quality to optimize wine quality; canopy management for mechanization; management of berry/sour shrivel.
- **Pest Management** – Detect and manage grapevine viruses and vectors; sustainable management strategies for all pests of economic importance (grape mealybug, spider mites, phylloxera, fungal diseases, nematodes, crown gall, weeds, vertebrate); management of trunk diseases.
- **Climate Impacts on Site/Viticulture** – Develop optimum guidelines for light and heat exposure on fruit; understand impact of climate variability on viticulture (phenology, ripening, pest and diseases); winter trunk injury and secondary infections (crown gall); develop decision support system for inversion, frost protection.
- **Mechanization/Precision** – Develop, evaluate mechanized/precision tools that reduce reliance on hand labor in vineyard or winery (crop estimation tool, canopy and crop management, pest management, sorting, MOG removal, cellar tasks).

Emerging Issues

- Unforeseen viticulture and enology threats, problems or research opportunities
- Industry education needs (extension bulletins, etc.)
- Comparative analysis of Washington State viticulture practices to other regions (e.g. sustainable pest and disease management systems)



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**Washington State Wine Commission
Demonstration Research Grant Program
Project Proposal for FY 2026 - 2027**

Deadline for Submission: **January 23, 2026**

Upload proposals to Washington Wine research Grant Portal:

<https://webportalapp.com/sp/login/washingtonwine>

Application has two-page maximum. Please use Times New Roman, 12-pt font.

PROJECT TITLE:

Project Duration: 1 year

Principal Investigator:

Organization:

Telephone:

Email:

Co-PI:

Organization:

Telephone:

Email:

Cooperators:

Research Project Objectives:

Relevance to Washington Wine Industry:

Procedures to Accomplish Objectives: *(be specific enough to discuss trial or plot design, methods used in the experiment and parameters of data collection)*

Budget Request:

Budget Justification:

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WINE

**Washington State Grape and Wine Research Grant Program
Washington State Wine Commission
Short term (One-Year) Grant
Final Report – Short Term Project
2026-27 Funding Cycle**

Deadline for Final Report: **June 30, 2027**

Submit reports to [Washington Wine Research Grant Portal](#)

There are no limitations on the length of final reports. Use 12-point Times New Roman, 1" margins left, right and top and a 1.5" margin at the bottom that includes page numbers. Include pertinent graphs, tables, and figures. Please delete instructional text in your report.

Project Title:

Project Duration: 1 year

Principal Investigator:

Organization:

Telephone:

Email:

Co-PI:

Organization:

Telephone:

Email:

Cooperators: Name, organization and contact information

- 1. Summary:** *In addition to the project report, provide a concise summary in lay terms describing the specific accomplishments. This will be used to communicate findings with the industry.*
- 2. Objectives and Experiments Conducted to Meet Stated Objectives:** *(The report objectives should match project objectives.)*
- 3. Major Research Accomplishments and Results by Objective:**
- 4. Research Presentations:** *Include plans to communicate results to stakeholders.*
- 5. Research Success Statements:** *Describe how your project benefits the Washington viticulture and enology industry. These statements are different from the project summary in that they specifically indicate how the research benefits industry rather than summarizing progress.*
- 6. Funds Status:** *Include a general summary of how funds were spent.*

Please upload this report to the [Washington Wine Research Portal](#) by June 30 of the end of the research funding year. Future research funding will be contingent on timely reporting.