



VITICULTURE AND ENOLOGY RESEARCH

Request for Research Project Proposals 2026-27

Submission Deadline: January 31, 2026

<http://industry.oregonwine.org>

I. Oregon Wine Board Research Grants Executive Summary

In this Request for Research Project Proposals (RFP), the Oregon Wine Board (OWB) seeks proposals for research projects specifically relevant to Oregon viticulture and/or enology. The OWB has articulated the areas of research in which it wishes to invest; those can be found in Section II, below.

Every year the OWB allocates funds to Viticulture and Enology Research. Allocation of funds to the selected research projects will be contingent upon final approval of the OWB budget in December. Proposals for OWB Research Grant funding must be submitted online by **January 31, 2026**, on the Unified Grants Management for Viticulture and Enology (UGMVE) website (<https://fps.ucdavis.edu/vit>). Additional proposal instructions and requirements can be found in Section III, below.

All proposals determined to be complete by OWB staff will be examined by the OWB Research Committee by **April 2026**. The Research Committee will make funding recommendations to the OWB Board of Directors, which will vote on whether to appropriate the funds as recommended. The formal announcement of funding appropriations will be made no later than **June 1, 2026**. Additional information on the review process can be found in Section IV below.

OWB funds will be distributed to selected projects in three installments:

1. the first after receipt of the signed institutional agreement,
2. the second upon a satisfactory interim progress report;
3. and the third contingent upon a satisfactory end of the funding cycle or final project report.

Note: If the OWB approved the first year of funding for a multi-year project, another proposal must be submitted each year via the UGMVE for any subsequent year(s) of funding.

Previously funded research takes precedence for funding allocations, presuming that satisfactory progress is being made toward achieving the stated goals and objectives. More information about project funding can be found in Section V; reporting requirements are detailed in Section VI, below.



II. OWB Funding Priorities

The Oregon Wine Board (<https://industry.oregonwine.org>) is a semi-independent state agency charged with supporting enological and viticultural research for the enhancement and promotion of grape growing and winemaking in Oregon. Pursuant to a [strategic planning analysis in 2018](#), the OWB has articulated the areas of research in which it wishes to invest. Those areas are aimed at continuous improvement of Oregon's capacity to produce world-class wines.

Proposals for OWB grant funding must address one or more of the following strategic pillars:

1. **Wine Quality:** Advancements in wine quality and site specificity and expression by enhancing markers both in the vineyard and winery, including improving vineyard health and wine organoleptic profiles.
2. **Sustainable Production:** Develop and improve sustainable practices to minimize inputs, reduce impact, and identify better alternatives to attain desired quality and economic results.
3. **Changing Climate:** Facilitate adaptation of vineyard and winemaking to future climatic conditions. Specific areas of interest include smoke impact, water usage, increased heat, and disease and pest management.
4. **Foundational Research:** Foster viticulture and enology discovery that has the potential to provide foundations for future application that addresses issues in the pillars listed above, i.e., basic research that fuels future applied research pertaining to wine quality, sustainable production, or climate-adaptive practices.

Specific areas of interest of the OWB for 2026-2027 include but are not limited to:

Viticulture

1. Developing or improving methods and technology for detection, monitoring, identification, and sustainable management of:
 - a. Vineyard pests - prioritizing virus-vectoring insects such as mealybugs, nematodes, and others; mites; weeds; and other harmful species.
 - b. Vine diseases - prioritizing viral diseases, trunk diseases, powdery mildew, botrytis, and other fungal diseases.
 - c. Pathogenic vine conditions - including abiotic stress conditions, and the extent to which these conditions stimulate the emergence of vine diseases and decrease fruit quality.
2. Developing or improving environmentally and economically sustainable methods of viticulture and their effects on grape composition, ripening, and vine health, and their amelioration of the effects of climate change through:
 - a. Identifying and improving irrigation monitoring and management practices, methodologies, and precision technologies.
 - b. Understanding vineyard management principles and practices associated with:
 - i. crop load, bud fruitfulness, and bud thinning;
 - ii. vineyard floor management, weed control, and soil water availability;
 - iii. training systems and canopy management;
 - iv. precision technologies and mechanization;
 - v. rootstocks and alternative wine grape varieties.



3. Discovering new basic knowledge in wine grape production in the following areas:
 - a. New biomarkers/precursors as metrics including effects of crop load on vine health and bud fruitfulness.
 - b. The extended vineyard microbiome as a critical component of terroir and its impact on wine characteristics.

Enology

1. Developing or improving fermentation (both primary and malolactic) management and wine storage techniques. In particular:
 - a. Mitigating issues associated with using compromised or nutritionally imbalanced fruit, including fruit from stressed and/or diseased vines; understanding the relationship between vine nutrition and wine quality.
 - b. Optimizing oxygen use and the relationship between oxygen use and specific wine attributes.
 - c. Optimizing wine quality through a more thorough understanding of the causes of reduction and the treatment for unwanted sulfide issues.
 - d. Developing a deeper understanding of the fungal and bacterial communities present during wine fermentation and aging, their effects on wine quality, and the levers for the control of undesirable microbes in wine to minimize microbial defects.
2. Studying the effects of winemaking techniques on extraction and retention of individual wine precursors and components during fermentation and aging, including aroma, flavor, phenolic, and non-volatile components, especially as they enhance wine quality and affect wine style.
3. Assessing the impact and mitigation of environmental character in wine that may arise from aromatic sources near vineyards, including smoke and industrial processing.

III. OWB Research Grant Proposal Instructions and Requirements

The following components are required for a proposed research project to be considered complete and evaluated for potential OWB Research Grant funding. Please read these instructions carefully; if your submission is not in compliance as required herein, it will not be accepted.

1. Proposals should follow the Proposal Format that can be downloaded from the UGMVE website at <https://fps.ucdavis.edu/vit>. The Proposal Format for the 2026-2027 funding cycle will be posted on December 1, 2025. Additional guidance for OWB proposal submission are as follows:
 - a. The Objective(s) of the Proposed Research section should mention the strategic pillar(s) and viticulture and/or enology areas of interest (listed in Section II) the proposed project seeks to address.
 - b. In the Justification and Importance of Proposed Research section, please note any inter-related projects by other Principal Investigators (PIs) working concurrently, if applicable.
 - c. The Timetable for the Project should preferably be presented in the form of a Gantt chart and should include project commencement and completion dates with detailed milestones for the current proposal funding cycle and a mention of the total duration of the project.
 - d. The Outreach and Education section is an essential component of the proposal and must include the future submission (within one month after the end of the funding period) of one document



(300-700 words) written for an industry audience that summarizes the work and results of the project; if and how results might be used in the vineyard and/or winery; and one presentation, either by the PI or their designee, delivered in person or remotely and made available electronically to an Oregon wine industry audience.

e. Note that OWB Research Grants cannot be used for:

- Tuition or tuition reimbursement.
- Renovation or refurbishment of research spaces; the purchase or installation of fixed equipment; the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of a building or facility.
- Indirect costs that are a part of the institution's indirect cost pool (e.g. administrative or clerical salaries) may not be reclassified as direct costs for the purpose of making them allowable.
- Projects organized or conducted by private or for-profit organizations.
- Research that does not pertain to winegrapes or wine production, e.g. table grape research.

The Total Budget Request section should reflect these budget restrictions.

2. Multidisciplinary, multi-investigator projects are strongly encouraged, and projects combining viticulture and enology will receive a higher priority. Intellectually related viticulture and enology projects may be submitted separately with distinct budgets and a clear explanation of their interdependencies and linkages. An applicant may submit multiple projects for consideration.
3. Proposals must be submitted online by January 31, 2026, to the UGMVE. No exceptions will be made for late submissions. The Unified Grants Management for Viticulture and Enology system (UGMVE) was established to coordinate grant proposal submission and review among multiple funding agencies in the wine and grape community. Each of the funding agencies using the UGMVE has its own RFP which presents its funding opportunities. Researchers are strongly advised to apply to as many agencies as are appropriate for their project. The submission site opens for the OWB RFP on December 1, 2025.
4. Additional materials need to be submitted with the request electronically (in PDF format) directly in the UGMVE. Projects will not be considered for funding unless the following materials are submitted:
 - a. A 100-word summary of the proposed project;
 - b. One signed copy of the proposal; and
 - c. The approval signatures as required by your institution.
5. Confidential matters should not be included in proposals.

IV. Review Process

All research proposals determined by OWB staff to be complete will be examined by the OWB Research Committee by **April 2026**. The [Research Committee](#) is comprised of Oregon grape growers and winemakers from across the state that are broadly representative of the Oregon winemaking industry as a whole.

Evaluation criteria for proposals include:

1. Justification and importance of the proposed research objectives;
2. Research proposal objectives in relation to OWB's stated research priorities;



3. Relevance of the proposed research to the Oregon wine industry;
4. Experimental procedure and scientific merit;
5. Likelihood of leading to practical application;
6. The proposed outreach plan and how well it targets the Oregon wine industry;
7. The success of the PI, Co-PIs, and other associated researchers in producing peer-reviewed publications (relevant peer-reviewed publications should be listed in the proposal);
8. The research capacity of the proposed project team, and the likelihood of accomplishing project objectives;
9. Whether the research timetable and milestones appear appropriate and achievable; and Budget appropriateness to meet objectives.
10. For interrelated, multidisciplinary projects, each project will be reviewed based on its individual merit as well as the projects' combined merit.

The Research Committee will make funding recommendations to the OWB Board of Directors, which will vote on whether to appropriate the funds as recommended. The formal announcement of funding appropriations will be made no later than **June 1, 2026**.

V. Funding

Funds to support OWB Research Grants come from mandatory taxes on grapes used to produce Oregon wine (\$25/ton) and on certain wines sold in Oregon (\$0.02/gallon). Proposals selected by the OWB for funding will receive funds in three installments:

1. the first after receipt of the signed institutional agreement,
2. the second upon a satisfactory interim progress report is due by January 31.
3. and the third is contingent upon a satisfactory end of the funding cycle or final project report due by May 31.

See Section VI below for reporting requirements.

If the OWB approved the first year of funding for a multi-year project, another proposal must be submitted each year via the UGMVE for any subsequent year(s) of funding. Previously funded research takes precedence for funding allocations and will be fully funded before funding any new projects presuming that satisfactory progress is being made towards achieving the stated goals and objectives of the project.

Publicity, press releases, publications, presentations, materials, and/or media advertising produced as part of this proposed project must acknowledge the OWB as follows: "This work was made possible in whole or part by a grant from the Oregon Wine Board."



VI. Reporting Process

Annual and final reports should follow the report format that can be downloaded from the UGMVE website at <https://fps.ucdavis.edu/vit>.

Note that if you are seeking continued funding for multi-year projects, annual reports are due with the continuing proposal on January 31 of the following year. Consideration of continuing proposals will be contingent upon receipt of progress reports and updated Gantt chart, and the continuing merit and promise of accomplishment of the project.

VII. Timeline

Timeline for submitting a proposal to the OWB:

1. October 31, 2025 – Current year RFP published to Oregon Wine Board industry site.
2. December 1, 2025 – UGMVE submission site opens.
3. January 31, 2026 – Research Proposals due through UGMVE
4. April 30, 2026 – OWB Research Committee evaluation of proposals
5. June 1, 2026 – Final date for award decisions to be communicated to applicants.

Reporting Timeline for funded projects.

1. August 15, 2026 - All agreements signed to release the first payment installment.
2. January 3, 2027 - Progress report due to OWB to release the second payment installment
3. May 30, 2027 - Final report or end of funding cycle progress report for multi-year projects due to OWB to release the third and final installment.
4. December 30, 2027 - Beginning of the new funding cycle, multi-year projects should submit a progress report with a new RFP.

OWB Viticulture & Enology Operating Calendar for submitting RFPs and reporting on funded projects during 2024-2026

	2024						2025						2026					
	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Submitting timeline																		
NEW RFP published to Oregon Wine Board industry site.				###														
UGMVE submission site opens.					###													
Research Proposals due through UGMVE						###												
OWB Research Committee evaluation of proposals								###										
Decisions to be communicated to applicants.										1-Jan								
Beginning of New Funding Cycle*																		
Reporting Timeline																		
All agreements signed to release the first payment installment.													###					
Progress report due to OWB to release the second payment																###		
Final report to release the third and final installment. **																		###

* Beginning of the new funding cycle, multi-year projects should submit a progress report with a new RFP

**or end-of-funding-cycle progress for multi-year projects

Fiscal year



VIII. Questions

Questions regarding this RFP should be emailed to the OWB at research@oregonwine.org.