**On-Ramps for Research Career Acceleration**

**Program Purpose/Description:**

UMBC recognizes the adverse impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the research careers of many of our Assistant and Associate Professors. We also recognize the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on caregivers, and individuals from underrepresented groups.

UMBC has adapted our original On-Ramps program to address the long-term impacts of COVID-19 on the research career trajectories of our Assistant and Associate Professors. The new **On-Ramps for Research Career Acceleration** program will accept applications in Fall 2022 to provide a cohort of UMBC Assistant and Associate professor faculty with 2-years of targeted research support (no-extension), beginning in the Spring 2023 semester.

**Eligible Faculty**:

* **Assistant Professors:** Post Third-Year Contract Renewal
* **Associate Professors:** Promoted between AY 20-21 and AY 22-23.

**Award Support(s):**

Faculty should request the type of support needed to accelerate their research. Examples, might include, but are not limited to:

* Course release
* GA/RA support
* Grant Writing Support
* Research Writing Support

**Application Requirements:**

Eligible faculty members must complete and submit a [Research Acceleration Plan form](https://forms.gle/6EXvP3wj3hzgLWUMA). On this form, applicants are asked to provide the following information:

* + Current CV
  + 1-2-page *Self-Assessment*of their career trajectory toward associate professor that includes a detailed description of how the COVID-19 pandemic is/has impacting their research career.
  + A *Resource Request* that specifies which type of research support(s) they are requesting.
  + A research plan for Spring 2023-Fall 2023 that includes:
    - A list of clearly articulated objectives/goals that are directly connected to requested supports.
    - Defined activities to achieve goals/activities
    - Calendar/timeline with benchmarks at intervals to assess progress
* A **Letter of Support** from department Chair/Program Director submitted to the [Chair Google Form.](https://forms.gle/PYBufXW9gcxrnAJu5) On this form, Chairs/Directors are asked to provide the following information:
  + Confirm review and indicate support of the research acceleration plan
  + Delineate how the proposed research acceleration plan supports the participant’s research development.

**Application Evaluation and Funding Timeline:**

Submitted plans will be reviewed and approved each Dean in consultation with the Provost's Office.

Plans will be evaluated using the following criteria:

* Severity of COVID-19 disruption on the research career of the faculty member.
* Likelihood that the goals, objectives, and activities outlined in the plan will increase the research career of the faculty member.
* Readiness of faculty member to implement plan.
* Chair/Director commitment to support the faculty member to implement their plan.

**Deadline and Award Announcements:**

The deadline for submitting application materials is Friday, December 2, 2022.Applications should be submitted through the [Research Acceleration Plan form.](https://forms.gle/6EXvP3wj3hzgLWUMA) Awards will be announced at the beginning of the Spring 2023 Semester. This announcement will notify awardees and the department chair/director. The Dean’s Office with provide information about the financial processes.

**Award Reporting Requirements:**

Participants will submit a progress assessment report at the end of each award year. (Templates provided):

Chairs will be required to submit a progress assessment report for their faculty member at the end of each award year. (Templates provided):