

Climate Science in Theological Education Grant Application Instructions

The Climate Science in Theological Education initiative provides grants to seminaries to engage forefront climate-related science in their curriculum and activities with the goal of equipping current and future faith leaders to lead their communities in addressing climate change. This initiative also seeks to provide a foundation to increase or expand current climate science engagement with pedagogical resources and establishing collaborative relationships with scientists. Activities funded by this grant may include capacity-building, course engagement, ministry applications, or other activities engaging climate-related science.

Project Requirements

Amount: The grant award amount shall be \$15,000.

Timeline: The grant period will begin in January 2024 and end in June 2025.

Reporting requirements: An update report will be due midway through the grant period (September 2024), and a 2-4 page final report and financial report will be due at the end of the project (June 2025).

Project leadership: Projects may have one or more project leaders. At least one project leader should be core or permanent faculty with input and responsibility for curriculum (not adjunct or temporary faculty).

Project activities:

Projects are intended to meaningfully engage climate-related science within the theological education curriculum. The specific science topics engaged and theological connections made are up to the project leaders. Previous projects have addressed science topics including air quality and health, food security, agriculture & soil science, marine science & ecology, paleoclimatology, and climate migrations. Schools have incorporated these topics into courses and activities involving ethics, scripture, Christian history, theology of justice, systematic theology, and more. Your proposal should reflect what is best for your students, faculty, and wider seminary community.

Project activities funded through this grant may focus in any of the following ways:

- A. **Capacity building:** Planning and implementing activities which increase the capacity for addressing climate change and related scientific fields within the institution's programs and culture, among the school's faculty and students, and across the curriculum. Examples include: workshops to increase faculty and/or administrative understanding of and support for engagement with climate science; events to build student awareness and interest in the scientific aspects of climate issues and actions; engagements with local science experts to explore relevant climate evidence and community impacts; and incorporating climate science into the curriculum in ways that are meaningful for students.

- B. Course engagement: Modifying or developing one or more courses to incorporate thoughtful engagement with climate science. Course modifications may include assigned readings, lectures, written assignments, class field trips, hands-on activities, and/or community engagement tasks and should expose students to different types of scientific evidence related to climate and create opportunities for students to make connections between scientific and theological dimensions of climate change, its causes, and impacts. Such curricular revisions should raise awareness of climate change as relevant to the theological content of the course and help students to engage with climate science in their future ministry. If course engagement is the main focus of your grant activities, at least one course must be part of the core curriculum.
- C. Ministry applications: Developing opportunities and resources that equip and empower students, alumni, and current faith leaders to engage in climate science conversations within their ministry contexts (congregational leadership, counseling, spiritual direction, religious education and formation, community-service vocation, etc.). Ministry focused project activities should help current and future faith leaders to connect a scientific understanding of climate change's causes and impacts with skillsets in community care and leadership. Such activities may include continuing education courses, community events, workshops, book clubs, etc.

Seminaries should plan at least one enrichment activity, a campus-wide or public event or activity that addresses the relevance of climate science to theological reflection, education, and/or practice in congregational or other ministry contexts. This activity can be held in person or virtually.

Grantee Support

Scientific and interdisciplinary advisors:

Grantee seminaries will be encouraged to work collaboratively with practicing scientific researchers and educators to develop and implement their project activities. For each project, in addition to the grant amount, AAAS-DoSER will provide honoraria for up to two advisors with relevant scientific backgrounds and/or expertise engaging science in theological education or ministry. If you have already identified individuals who you want to fill this role, please include that in your proposal, however AAAS can also help to connect you with appropriate advisors should you receive the grant.

Science magazine and AAAS annual meeting:

Grant recipients will also receive a two-year subscription to *Science* magazine and registration for one project leader for the AAAS annual meeting.

Virtual kickoff meeting, in-person retreat, and project planning activity:

Grantees will participate in a two-day virtual kickoff meeting with other grant recipients November 8-9, 2023 (1:00-5:30pm ET), and at least one project leader should plan to attend the entirety of this meeting. A project leader from each school will attend an in-person retreat in mid 2024 (travel, lodging, and meals provided). We also suggest having a project planning meeting with science advisors and other faculty to start relationship building and planning of project activities.

In addition, there will be periodic check-ins and virtual workshops for project leaders and other seminary staff.

Review Criteria

Selections for funding will be based primarily on your proposal's articulation of the following:

- The positive, substantial impact this project would make on your seminary, with new engagement with climate science
- How this project will equip and empower future and/or current faith leaders to actively engage climate science in their ministerial contexts
- How this project is uniquely suited to the context of your seminary and community
- The experience and ability of the personnel on this project (project leader, faculty, etc.)
- The commitment of your institution to engagement and completion of all project goals
- The impact of this project beyond your school and its sustainability beyond the length of the project

Proposal Components

Proposals are due **September 18, 2023, 11:59 PDT**. Proposals should be submitted using the online submission form [HERE](#). Proposals should include the following:

- **Project Title**
- **Project Leadership CVs**
- **Letter of Support from Academic Dean or other seminary administrative leadership**
- **Project Description Summary (400 word limit):** Please give a brief summary of your project, team, goals, and proposed activities. Describe how your institution would support the project leader(s) and other involved personnel in their efforts to integrate climate science and what your team and institution would do over the course of the project to encourage a broader appreciation for climate science among students and faculty.
- **Description of Specific Activities and Outputs (1000 word limit):** Please describe the main activities and outputs of your project. Include the specific activities to be undertaken, climate science topics to be engaged, the goals of the activities, and the anticipated impact of activities on seminarians. Detail which project activity area(s) (capacity building, course engagement, ministry applications) your proposed activities address. See the Project activities section above for more details. For course engagement activities, please describe the course or courses that you will be revising and how climate science will be integrated into the content and format of the course. Furthermore, briefly expand upon how your stated outputs and goals are unique to your context in engaging with climate science with your proposed audience(s).
 - Some helpful resources to use in shaping your proposal are the project websites: <https://www.scienceforseminaries.org/resources/> and <https://sciencereligiondialogue.org/>. You may include attachments relevant to your activities (for example, course syllabi). Attachments will not count towards word count limit.
- **Enrichment activity (400 word limit):** Please provide details of at least one enrichment activity or campus-wide event exploring the relevance of climate science to theological reflection, study,

or congregational ministry. Include details on when the event will be held, the format of the event, and the proposed audience that will be the focus of the event. This activity can be held either in-person or virtually.

- **Timeline (400 word limit);** Please outline a timeline of the project from January 2024 to June 2025. The timeline should include a virtual project planning meeting with content advisors and faculty, grant activities including any course offerings, and enrichment activity.
- **Budget:** The amount of the grant award is \$15,000. Include in your budget items associated with the output(s) including faculty course time, the cost of the enrichment activity (speaker honorarium, cost of facilities, food, etc.), costs of student workers, costs of needed resources, etc. AAAS will provide a \$500 honorarium each for up to two advisors. If you wish to include additional honoraria as part of your grant budget, you may do so. If you anticipate using any matching funding or in-kind support for this project, you may include that here.
- **Budget Narrative (400 word limit):** In your budget narrative give a brief explanation of how you would allocate the requested funds and rationale for each budget item.

Submission: Please submit applications through the online submission form [HERE](#) by **September 18, 2023, 11:59 PM PDT**. Submission is not completed until you receive a confirmation email within 48 hours of your submission. Please contact us if you do not receive a confirmation email. Email and paper submissions by postage mail will not be accepted. Review and decision of accepted applications will be made by **October 18, 2023**.

Questions should be submitted Curtis L. Baxter (cbaxter@aaas.org) 202-326-6778 or Leif Castren (lcastren@aaas.org) 406-471-0670.