

Climate Change in Theological Education Application Process FAQ

Proposal Framework, Event, & Faculty.....	2
Is my school eligible for this grant if it has previously been awarded a Science for Seminaries Phase I or II grant or participated in the Climate Change in Theological Curriculum pilot project?.....	2
For my project title in the application, do I need to include the word climate change or climate science?.....	2
What are examples of project activities in the areas of (a) capacity building, (b) course engagement, and (c) ministry applications?.....	2
If I am planning a faculty/student workshop, do I need to have names of attendees or a topic/theme of the event?.....	3
What is the expected number of participating faculty per seminary?.....	3
Do the proposed participating faculty need to be identified now?	3
What kind of events are you looking for?.....	4
Areas of Science	4
Are any specific scientific fields preferred for potential project activities?	4
Can applicants propose their own advisors to help with the project?.....	4
Can applications include a partnership with another institution?	4
Funding & Grant Details.....	5
Do proposed budgets need to include honoraria and travel expenses for advisors/mentors?.....	5
What are the travel expectations for project participants at each seminary?.....	5
Can indirect costs/overhead be included in the budget proposal?.....	5
Can applicants' proposals include funding for _____?	6
Application Process.....	6
When will the final decisions about funding be announced?.....	6
Which individuals need to write a letter of support for inclusion in the application proposal?.....	6
What is the review process for the proposal?.....	6
Will applicants have an opportunity to talk with DoSER staff during the application writing stage?..	6

Proposal Framework, Event, & Faculty

Is my school eligible for this grant if it has previously been awarded a Science for Seminaries Phase I or II grant or participated in the Climate Change in Theological Curriculum pilot project?

Yes! If you have received any of the Science for Seminaries grants or the pilot climate grant, this new initiative is open to your school. However, schools who have been awarded grants previously will need to demonstrate a significant and substantial difference from previous awarded grants for this new initiative.

For my project title in the application, do I need to include the word climate change or climate science?

No, the project title does not need to include the words “climate change”. We understand that applicants come from a diversity of contexts and cultures where conversations around climate change are framed differently. However, we do suggest that the title you propose is complementary to the work that you plan to accomplish in your project.

What are examples of project activities in the areas of (a) capacity building, (b) course engagement, and (c) ministry applications?

- a) Capacity building activities enable schools to establish a foundation of thoughtful engagement with climate change and related scientific areas. Capacity building can provide the opportunity to expand on work that’s already being done by faculty at the institution. Examples of this area include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Create a working group with local scientists who would advise on incorporating climate-related science in your curriculum and/or campus life
 - b. In a faculty book discussion group, either pre-existing or created for this grant, focus on relevant scientific literature (i.e., books, research papers, etc.) to boost climate science literacy among seminary faculty
 - c. Host a workshop series for faculty to provide them with pedagogical insights on climate-related science incorporation in their own coursework
 - d. Provide resources for your library and have a spotlight series on specific books added to the library’s collection
 - e. Provide grants for interested faculty to do research and scholarly work with the end goal of incorporating that scholarship into their own coursework
- b) Course engagement is the revision of courses in the MDiv program or equivalent program in the fields of biblical studies, theology, ethics, pastoral care and counseling, church history, and others. At least one course must be a core/required course; however, any additional courses may be electives. Successful course engagement projects host a meeting with project faculty and science advisors to plan and develop course revisions, identify climate science or other relevant scientific resources to include in the course, and platform scientist(s) to guest lecture or present their research to

course participants. Here are some examples of areas previous projects incorporated climate science in course curriculum:

- a. Paleoclimatology, Migration, and the Hebrew Bible
- b. Creation Care, Justice, and the Prophets
- c. Indigenous Communities, Land Justice, Agriculture, and Biblical Texts
- d. EcoWomanism, Justice, and Environmental Degradation

Please click [HERE](#) to see other examples of course engagement with climate change.

- c) Ministry application activities will focus on providing space and resources for seminarians, alumni, and community faith leaders to thoughtfully engage with climate science within a ministerial context (congregational leadership, spiritual formation, religious education, pastoral vocation, etc.). Ministry focused projects should assist current and future faith leaders in thinking critically about climate change and its impact on their ministry and the communities they lead. Examples of this type of project activity include:
 - a. Providing mini-grants to local congregations to provide climate change focused sermon resources or host community service projects focused on engaging congregants.
 - b. Create or integrate climate science or relevant scientific field into a continuing education/lifelong learning course.
 - c. Work with local non-profits to provide internship opportunities for students interested in addressing climate change topics in their own vocation.
 - d. Develop and present climate change bible study/adult education resources at a denominational or theological conference.

If I am planning a faculty/student workshop, do I need to have names of attendees or a topic/theme of the event?

You do not need to have names of attendees listed in your application. However, it would be helpful for reviewers to have a sense of expected attendees and the general theme/title of the workshop. Additionally, listing goals and any follow-up actions to the workshop are beneficial to include as well.

What is the expected number of participating faculty per seminary?

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). Other participating faculty may also be included in the application. Should your project be selected, each school must name at least one point of contact in addition to the project leader, should the project leader be unable to finish the project or unable to be contacted for important communications from AAAS DoSER.

Do the proposed participating faculty need to be identified now?

Yes. Applications should include the names of participating faculty, the project activities they plan to accomplish, and the scientific areas that will be focused on in the grant. However, the

details of the project activities will be worked out by funded seminaries over the 2024-25 academic year.

What kind of events are you looking for?

The type, style, and number of events is very flexible. The application must include a detailed proposal for at least one campus-wide event, but this may take the form of a three-day conference, a large one-day conference, a series of open lectures, a series of community-engagement lectures, etc.

Areas of Science

Are any specific scientific fields preferred for potential project activities?

The main focus of this grant is topics and issues related to the changing climate. Applicants can focus on a number of scientific areas that are relevant, like climate science, geospatial science, environmental science, anthropology, and many others. Be creative, thoughtful, and concise with how you are bringing the science into project activities.

Can applicants propose their own advisors to help with the project?

Yes. We recommend that seminaries propose external theological content advisors to be a part of the project planning team. Content advisors should be established theologians/seminary faculty who have extensive experience in implementing climate science or other relevant scientific fields into their own curricula or scholarly research. Should you encounter challenges, DoSER staff will be happy to assist in identifying and recruiting content advisors once the grant awardees have been selected.

For local science advisors, while AAAS will be primarily responsible for working with project seminaries in choosing local science advisors, we recognize that many applicants already have good relationships with local scientists, and their names can be included in project applications. Local science advisors should be established in their respective fields and would preferably have experience in public engagement through religious institutions (such as churches and synagogues), educational institutions, museums, etc. *Applicants are not required to propose science advisors.* AAAS is more than happy to help recruit scientists as needed once the cohort of seminaries are selected.

Local science advisors and content advisors will need to be accessible throughout the year to advise on planning and implementation of the revised curriculum.

Can applications include a partnership with another institution?

Yes. Applicants are welcome to draw on whatever resources would best help them complete the project goals and partnering with another institution (such as another college/university or a college/university that the seminary is part of) may be a useful way of doing this. While grants

will be awarded to the seminaries alone, applicants can include expenses to partnering institutions in their project proposals. Please keep in mind that the goal in such a partnership should be to channel resources from the partner institution to the seminary to further the seminary's participation in the project, not to fund separate objectives for another institution.

Please include a brief letter of support from someone writing on behalf of any partnering institution. Once the grant has been awarded, all advisors must be approved and confirmed by AAAS.

Funding & Grant Details

Do proposed budgets need to include honoraria and travel expenses for advisors/mentors?

For each awardee, AAAS plans to fund honoraria for up to two local science advisors *separately* from the applicant budget proposals. Honoraria provided by AAAS will be \$500/yr. per local science advisor for the 2024-25 academic year.

If applicable, applicants *will* need to include travel expenses, food, and lodging for on-campus project planning meetings (including local travel for the local science advisors, and travel and 2-night lodging for the any non-local advisors) in their proposed budget. Virtual project planning meetings are acceptable. If project leaders want to recruit more science advisors or offer honoraria to content advisors, these additional costs should be included in the budget proposal.

What are the travel expectations for project participants at each seminary?

One participant is expected to travel to a Climate Science in Theological Education Retreat, which will be held in August 2024. DoSER will cover the travel, lodging, and meals of one project leader from each awarded seminary to the retreat destination (to be determined in 2024). There will be more details to come regarding this multi-day event.

Project participants must also participate in the 2024 or 2025 AAAS Annual Meeting. DoSER will cover registration for the Annual Meeting; if you wish to attend the meeting in person, travel, lodging, and meals should be included in the budget proposal. The [2024 AAAS Annual Meeting](#) has been scheduled as an in-person only meeting for February 15-17, 2024, in Denver, CO. We anticipate that the 2025 Annual Meeting will be hybrid.

Can indirect costs/overhead be included in the budget proposal?

Yes, but we prefer that overhead costs not exceed 15% of the total grant request amount so that the grant funds are primarily used to support project activities. If this overhead limit places an undue restriction on your institution's ability to apply, please let us know.

Can applicants' proposals include funding for _____?

Typically, the answer is “Yes,” whether talking about funding for speaker honoraria, funding faculty participation in a conference or course in science, books, student contests, media, etc. Our goal is to give applicants extensive latitude in deciding how best to achieve the project goals, provided that the resources and expenses planned are clearly connected to the main goals of the project (integrating science into core seminary courses, holding campus-wide activities, etc.). For example, registration fees for a cosmology course/conference would be welcome for a professor planning to include the science of astronomy/cosmology when discussing the doctrine of creation in a Systematic Theology course. Funding a field trip to a research site (if relevant and cost-efficient) would be welcome if it informs and enriches the science being integrated into a seminary course. Whatever the specifics, applicants should clearly articulate how their specific proposed expenses and activities aid the project’s primary goals in an important, efficient, cost-effective way.

More ideas can be found on ScienceForSeminaries.org.

Application Process

When will the final decisions about funding be announced?

We plan to make this announcement on October 18, 2023.

Which individuals need to write a letter of support for inclusion in the application proposal?

Applications should include very brief letters of support from a seminary administrator (at the dean level or equivalent). If you are including another institution for a partnering role on your project, please include a letter of support from a representative of that institution.

What is the review process for the proposal?

Proposals will be reviewed by an external committee of scientists and theological faculty. Following this evaluation, the final selection will be made by AAAS in consultation with additional advisors as necessary. Please keep in mind that some reviewers may be unfamiliar with the theological community and its relevant topics or issues. As such, proposals should be addressed to AAAS and written with a broader audience in mind.

Will applicants have an opportunity to talk with DoSER staff during the application writing stage?

Yes. DoSER will be holding a series of FAQ sessions on August 3 and 24 to help answer any questions or concerns you may have during the proposal process. We encourage you to attend at least once to help ensure the strength of your application, and you’re more than welcome to attend more than once. The dates of the conference calls are as follows:

- Thursday, August 3, 2-3PM EST
- Thursday, August 24, 2-3PM EST



**Climate Science in
Theological Education**
A PROJECT OF AAAS DOSER



These sessions will be recorded and posted on ScienceforSeminaires.org. To register for a FAQ session, click [HERE](#).