

Climate Science in Theological Education Grant Application Instructions

The Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion (DoSER) program at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) seeks applications that engage forefront science related to climate change in the education of religious community leaders.

The Climate Science in Theological Education (CSTE) initiative provides grants to seminaries and other theological education institutions to engage forefront climate-related science with the goal of equipping current and future faith leaders to lead their communities in understanding climate change and addressing associated challenges at the local level. In addition to providing grant funds for educational activities, this initiative also provides learning opportunities for project personnel, pedagogical resources related to science literacy and engagement on a wide variety of topics, and collaborative relationships with scientists.

Activities funded by this grant may include capacity-building, course engagement, ministry/leadership applications, or other activities engaging climate-related science.

Grant Projects Overview

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

Timeline: The grant period will begin in July 2024 and end in December 2025.

Reporting requirements: An update report will be due midway through the grant period (March 2025), and a 2-4 page final report and financial report will be due at the end of the project (December 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). Projects are encouraged to include additional personnel in a project co-leadership role.

Project Activities:

Campus-wide event: Grantees must plan and host one campus- or seminary-wide event or activity that addresses the relevance of climate science to theological reflection, education, and/or practice in congregational or other ministry/leadership contexts. This event may be held in-person or virtually. Examples of events include: hosting a climate science or other relevant science area conference or workshop for faculty and students, sponsoring an Earth Day event at a local faith community, or taking a field trip to a local science lab or museum for students or local faith leaders.

Project activities funded through these grants may focus in any of the following ways:

- A. **Capacity building:** Grantees may use funds to plan and implement activities that increase the institution's capacity for addressing climate change and related scientific fields. Such activities may focus on the faculty community (in whole or in part), the student body (in whole or part), a

particular program or curricular area, or an aspect of campus culture. 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; or incorporating climate science into the curriculum in ways that are meaningful for students.

- B. Course engagement: Projects may direct funds toward the revision of specific existing courses, or the development of new courses, to incorporate thoughtful engagement with climate science. Modifications may include assigned readings, lectures, written assignments, class field trips, hands-on activities, and/or community engagement tasks that 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 consider the relationship between climate change and their vocation. If course engagement is the main focus of your grant activities, at least one course must be part of the core curriculum.
- C. Ministry/Leadership applications: Grantees may use funds to develop opportunities and resources that prepare and empower students, alumni, and/or current faith leaders to engage in climate science conversations within their leadership and ministry contexts (congregational leadership, counseling, spiritual direction, religious education and formation, community-service vocation, etc.). Such activities should help current and future faith leaders to connect a scientific understanding of climate change with skills in organizing, community care, and/or leadership. Activities may include continuing education courses, community events, workshops, book clubs, etc.

Topics: Projects are intended to meaningfully engage climate-related science within the theological education curriculum. Projects should have a compelling theme that frames and focuses the science engagement for the relevant context. The areas of science engaged, and theological connections made, are up to the project leaders. Previous topics include: air quality and health; agriculture and food security, flooding and drought, wildfires, eco-grief and eco-anxiety, marine systems and coastal change, local natural history and ecology, paleoclimatology, energy transitions and resource sustainability, and climate migrations, among others. Past projects have incorporated these topics into courses in scripture, ethics, theology, history, pastoral care, making creative connections to physical, biological, and social sciences. Your proposal should reflect what is best for your students, faculty, and wider institution community.

Broader Impact: Proposals should consider how the proposed activities may continue to have impact beyond the grant period and live on as resources for students, faculty, and/or faith communities.

Grantee Support

Scientific and interdisciplinary advisors:

Grantee institutions 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. 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 May 29-30, 2024 (1:00-6:00pm ET), and at least one project leader should plan to attend the entirety of this meeting. A project leader from each institution will attend an in-person retreat in August 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 institution 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 institution, 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 or leadership contexts
- How this project is uniquely suited to the context of your educational institution 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 institution and its sustainability beyond the length of the project

Application Requirements

Proposals are due **April 1, 2024, 11:59pm 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 institutional 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 will support the project leader(s) and other involved personnel in their efforts to integrate climate science and what your team and institution will 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 students. Detail which project activity area(s) (capacity building, course engagement, ministry/leadership 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 you anticipate 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 on 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.
- **Campus-wide event (400-word limit):** Please provide details of at least one campus-wide activity or event exploring the relevance of climate science to theological reflection, education, or practice. 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 July 2024 to December 2025. The timeline should include a virtual project planning meeting with content advisors and faculty, grant activities including any course offerings, and campus-wide 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 campus-wide event (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 **April 1, 2024, 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 **May 1, 2024**.

Questions and FAQ: Questions should be submitted Curtis L. Baxter (cbaxter@aaas.org) 202-326-6778 or Leif Castren (lcastren@aaas.org) 406-471-0670. Two FAQ sessions will be held on February 22 from 2:00-3:00pm ET and March 5 from 2:00-3:00pm ET. Please register [HERE](#) for the February 22nd FAQ and [HERE](#) for the March 5th FAQ to receive a link to the sessions. Recordings of these sessions will be available on ScienceForSeminaries.org.