

BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Organized Research Centers Call for New Centers Deadline: March 1, 2017

Binghamton University's Organized Research Centers (ORC) provide a supportive infrastructure for interdisciplinary research. The ORCs facilitate research collaborations; disseminate research results through research conferences, meetings and other activities; strengthen graduate and undergraduate education by providing students with training opportunities and access to facilities; and seek extramural funds for research and scholarly activities.

ORCs are led by tenured, full-time faculty; tenure-track faculty may serve as co-directors. An ORC must include three or more faculty working in a critical realm from one or more departments. ORCs are established based on the determination that the nature of the proposed center's research and scholarly activities goes beyond the collaborative effort between two or more faculty members and that the existence of the ORC is necessary in order for the center to be successful in achieving its goals and objectives. ORCs are established with internal start-up funding and should generally become self-sustaining within three to five years. An ORC may not be established if research objectives are essentially the same as those of an existing department or research unit.

In 2017-18, Binghamton University anticipates designating one new Organized Research Center. Applications for new centers are requested.

A proposal, not to exceed 8 pages of narrative (excluding attachments or appendices), must include the following:

1. Statement of the need for establishment of an Organized Research Center;
2. Faculty team, including director (tenured, full-time faculty member), affiliated faculty, and their departments. Core membership must include a minimum of three or more faculty working in critical realm from one or more departments. A brief succession plan should be included in the event that the director retires or leaves the director position. Directors who transition to a Bartle Professorship may continue to serve as the center director, but will need to appoint a tenured co-director as part of the center's succession plan. ORCs may also recommend the appointment of a tenure-track faculty or staff member as an interim director with the explicit approval of the Vice President for Research and the Provost during transitional periods until a permanent tenured faculty can be appointed.
3. A clear demonstration that the research conducted by the proposed ORC requires a center approach and that it cannot be simply accomplished through normal collaboration among faculty;
4. Description of research and scholarly activities to be undertaken. Special attention should be paid to the creative value and significance of the proposed program. The proposal should discuss the original knowledge that the proposed ORC may anticipate adding to the field;
5. Benefits of proposed center to Binghamton University;

6. Discussion of specific objectives of the proposed ORC with a description of how objectives will be monitored, how performance will be measured and metrics by which ORC should be evaluated;
7. Timeline for the stages of development in the research program over the first five years, including projections of numbers of faculty members and students who are expected to participate in the ORC over the five-year period;
8. Statement of how the research of each of the individual researchers would be integrated with the proposed ORC to develop a synergy greater than their individual efforts. The nature of the participation of each of the proposers should also be included.

Attachments or appendices must include:

- a. Brief bio-sketches (two pages each) of the director and co-directors (if applicable);
- b. Statements from each of the faculty members listed in the proposal that they agree to participate in the proposed ORC;
- c. Letters of support from each of the involved deans;
- d. Resource requirement projections, including:
 - i) Five-year budget and justification. Up to \$60K is available from the Division of Research over a five-year period for start-up activities. Appropriate use of campus-based ORC funding includes direct research expenses, such as support for research assistants and postdoctoral fellows, materials and supplies, equipment and facilities, research workshops, and general assistance;
 - ii) Requirements for space and library resources (if applicable);
 - iii) Summary of all additional anticipated sources of funding (internal and external).

New proposals are submitted to the Office of Strategic Research Initiatives (email to Jen Matcalf, jmetcalf@binghamton.edu). Proposals will be reviewed by the Advisory Committee for Scholarship and Research (a subcommittee of the Graduate Council). Recommendations are forwarded to the vice president for research, who may consult with the president and then establish the research unit.

All centers are required to submit an annual report. In the fourth year, an external review of the center will be conducted and a decision to continue the center will be made in the fifth year. Once self-sustaining, it is anticipated that the center will receive a small annual administrative allowance.