

# Four Stages of the UConn IDEA Grant

UConn IDEA Grant  
imagine / develop / engage / apply

A UConn IDEA Grant involves four stages of creative thinking, planning, work, and communication that take place over at least a two-semester period. Two groups of UConn IDEA Grants will be awarded each academic year.



## STAGE 1: IMAGINE

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On your mark, get set, go! Think of an idea that you would like to explore. Have you always dreamed of inventing the next big thing? Have you wanted to create something innovative, but didn't have the time or the resources? This is your chance to explore an area you've thought about for some time, or one that is completely new to you. The initiative is yours. Within your field of interest, what do you want to invent or how do you want to innovate? Maybe you want to do research or create something. It's your job to come up with a good idea. Once you know what you'd like to do, share your idea with friends, family, instructors and advisors and get their feedback. Meet with an advisor in the Office of Undergraduate Research to talk about how to shape your idea into an application for a UConn IDEA Grant. Then submit your application for review by the selection committee.

## STAGE 2: DEVELOP

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If awarded a UConn IDEA Grant, this stage is when you line up all of your ducks in a row. Here you refine your project design by thinking hard about what will make it even better. You'll have to make all of the arrangements to do the work you've proposed. If you do not already have a project supervisor, you'll need to find one during this stage. You'll also participate in the online planning course for students who have been awarded UConn IDEA Grants, where you will receive valuable support from the instructor and your peers. Together, you'll make sure your project plans are as solid as they possibly can be.

## STAGE 3: ENGAGE

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The time has arrived to roll up your sleeves and do the work you've been planning! This is the stage when you dive into the detail to engage in your project. During this time, you will be busy working with people, building your product, collecting data, conducting experiments, traveling, or performing. It all depends on how you've designed your plan, and how you've chosen to implement it. Keep in touch with your supervisor in the ways that you've agreed. Your project may be basis for an independent study, internship, fieldwork, or research course (whether you do your work for academic credit or not is a matter to discuss with an academic supervisor).

## STAGE 4: APPLY

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Now is the time to share your work with the audience you identified in your application. Demonstrate how you can apply the knowledge you've acquired and the skills you've developed. A final presentation can take many forms: poster or slide presentation; research paper; creative performance (musical composition, painting, poetry reading, etc.); design model (for engineering, architecture, landscaping or environmental project); report on a community-based initiative; film/podcast/radio piece. Whatever form you choose, catch the attention of your audience, get their feedback, and talk with them about your experiences and the outcomes of your project. Write a short end-of-grant report and reflection for the Office of Undergraduate Research.