# ASCEND Student Research Center
## Health-Research Concepts Competition Guidelines

## I. OVERVIEW INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participating Organizations:</th>
<th>The Morgan State University ASCEND Student Research Center</th>
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<tr>
<td>Competition Purpose (in brief):</td>
<td>To encourage students to think outside of the box and propose health-related innovative research, with faculty support, to improve overall health and disease prevention.</td>
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## II. KEY DATES

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<th>Competition Announced:</th>
<th>October, 2019</th>
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<td>Competition Open:</td>
<td>October 10th, 2019</td>
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| Information Session Dates (on site & webinar): | October 10th, 2019 at 11:00 am – 12:00 pm  
November 14th, 2019 at 11:00 am – 12:00 pm |
| Submission Deadline: | December 6th, 2019, 11:59 PM |
| Review: | December/January 2020 |
| Announcement of Winners: | Spring 2020 |
| Conceptual Development Period: | Concepts must include a timeline for project completion, which may not exceed one year. |

## III. AWARD OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

### Purpose/Objectives:

The Student Research Center’s (SRC’s) mission is to ignite Morgan State University’s undergraduate students’ health-research-related interests and cultivate their research skills by providing community outreach and mentorship programs that are entrepreneurial, innovative and interactive. The SRC falls under ASCEND’s undergraduate health-research training program, which has the goal of increasing diversity among biomedical researchers to address health disparities. Creating opportunities for students and faculty to collaborate and design is an important strategic objective of the SRC. Students will be empowered to develop health-research abstracts based on their health concept interest(s). Successful HRCC submissions rely on having a faculty/mentor with expertise in the student’s health concept.

The submission can be mentored by the following professionals, within or outside of MSU:
- Faculty member (Required)
- Post-doctoral fellow
- Doctoral student

Each submission must have a faculty mentor from Morgan State University or another university/institution as a project supervisor.

### Background:

The ASCEND Student Research Center (SRC) is a registered undergraduate student organization and facility, partially run by students with the support of the SRC Coordinator and a faculty advisor. Although membership for the SRC is open to all MSU undergraduate students, it encourages graduate students to mentor undergraduates interested in health science research fostering near-peer relationships. The vibrant research environment encourages students to broaden their knowledge of health research through mentorship, networking and outreach.
IV. AWARD INFORMATION

| Award Amount and Anticipated Number of Awards: | Up to ten (10) concepts be considered for support (i.e. financial, academic, etc.) based on their feasibility and cost effectiveness. |

V. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

| Eligible Entities: | Primary applicants must be Morgan State University undergraduate students and members of the Student Research Center (SRC) by the submission deadline. Applicants must work in close partnership with a faculty mentor from Morgan State University or another university/institution. Faculty mentors may propose concept ideas, review proposals and provide feedback to student-drafted abstracts; faculty mentors may not draft an abstract on a student’s behalf. Each submission must consist of at least one primary applicant and a faculty mentor. However, more than one undergraduate or graduate student may be included as co-applicants. |

| Number of Applications: | Each primary investigator may only submit one application. |

VI. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

| Application: | A Health-Research Concept Explanation abstract is required. The abstract should outline the following information: Title, Abstract Explaining Concept, Timeline for research (must not exceed one year), Cost Analysis/Budget narrative. A letter of support from a faculty member is required. The letter of support should outline the following information: Merit of concept explanation, Feasibility of conceptual plan, Level of support provided by faculty (time, mentorship, resources, etc.). CV/Resumé outlining research experience. Appendices are optional; 2 appendices max. |

| Application Submission: | Use the HRCC application link to complete and submit the application. All uploaded documents must be in PDF format. |
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<th>Review Board:</th>
<th>The Student Research Center’s executive board, faculty and staff will oversee the review of all applications and monitor project progress.</th>
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| **Forms, Components, and Page Limitations:** | - Title *(ten to fifteen words)*  
- Concept *(500-600 words)*  
  - Significance/Specific Aims  
  - Methodology  
- Cost Analysis/Budget Narrative *(100-200 words, and a table: see below)*  
- Letter of Support from Faculty/Mentor (should be emailed directly to ascend_src@morgan.edu)  
- Appendices (optional): They should add critical details to the concept such as: description of a technique; demonstration of a product’s prototype; graphs, tables, etc. An appendix should not be used to circumvent word limits. Each appendix should not exceed two pages. |
| **Budget:** | Each concept can request a budget of up to $5,000.  
The abstract must include a narrative (100-200 words) and table for the budget justification, itemizing and explaining in detail the requested cost items.  
*If selected for further support, we reserve the right to modify the budget as we see fit.* |
| **VII. APPLICATION REVIEW CRITERIA AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION** |  
**Applicant(s):**  
- Is the primary applicant, co-applicant(s), and faculty well suited to the project?  
- Do the applicants have complementary and integrated expertise?  
- Is the level of organizational and faculty support sufficient for successful implementation the concept? |
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### Significance:
- State the research concept.
- State why you are conducting this research, and explain what you would want to learn from conducting the research.
- Describe the gaps in current knowledge and why this concept is unique.
- If your aims are achieved, how will overall health be improved?
- Does the research utilize novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions?
- Does the research seek to address long-standing/otherwise ignored health issues?
- Are the approaches to be used innovative in the ways in which students from diverse backgrounds are engaged and trained?

*Please note that the responses to these questions will vary based on discipline (i.e. some questions may not apply to specific disciplines).*

### Methodology:
- Describe the concept design and research methodology.
  - Description of the concept or research design (i.e., observational or experimental, exploratory, descriptive, or explanatory, cross-sectional or longitudinal).
  - Description of sample and sampling methods, including sampling frame, study settings and sample size – what are your criteria for inclusion or exclusion, method of selection, and group assignments.
  - Description of any instruments, including previous reliability and validity data for the instruments.
  - Description of procedures. How will the data be collected? What procedures will be used?
  - What statistical procedures and methods will you use to analyze the data?
- Discuss the anticipated results or product (outputs and/or outcomes).
- Explain how the activities directly and/or indirectly address this issue or need and support achievement of these results.
- Provide a research implementation timeline.
- Is the overall strategy, methodology, and analysis plan well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the research?
- Are potential problems, alternative strategies, and benchmarks for success presented?

*Please note that the responses to these questions will vary based on discipline (i.e., some questions may not apply to specific disciplines).*
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<tr>
<th><strong>Budget and Period of Support:</strong></th>
<th>Reviewers will consider whether the budget and the requested period of support are fully justified and reasonable in relation to the proposed research.</th>
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<td><strong>Evaluation:</strong></td>
<td>Indicate what process and/or impact information will be collected to measure and demonstrate success, appropriate to the type and nature of the research.</td>
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<td><strong>Review Process</strong></td>
<td>Each Concept will be reviewed by 2-3 reviewers, and subsequently, as needed, by ASCEND faculty and staff.</td>
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**VIII. HEALTH-RESEARCH CONCEPTS COMPETITION CONTACT INFORMATION**

| **Contact Information:**         | The SRC  
ASCEND Center for Biomedical Research  
Morgan State University  
Spencer Room 200  
1700 E Cold Spring Lane  
Baltimore, MD 21251  
443-885-4676  
ascend_src@morgan.edu  
www.morgan.edu/ASCEND/SRC |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
Health-Research Concepts Competition

HRCC Ethical Standards

Participation in the Health-Research Concepts Competition requires that all applicants, co-applicants, and faculty mentors adhere to ethical standards outlined below. Violations may result in disqualification from the HRCC.

Conflict of Interest
Any potential conflict of interests must be disclosed. Otherwise, the applicants and faculty mentor listed on the application shall certify that they have NO affiliations with or involvement in any organization or entity with any financial interest (such as honoraria; educational grants; participation in speakers’ bureaus; membership, employment, consultancies, stock ownership, or other equity interest; and expert testimony or patent-licensing arrangements), or non-financial interest (such as personal or professional relationships, affiliations, knowledge or beliefs) in the subject matter or materials discussed in this health concept.

Plagiarism
Plagiarism occurs when a student, with intent to deceive or with reckless disregard for proper scholarly procedures, presents any information, ideas or phrasing of another as if they were his/her own and/or does not give appropriate credit to the original source. Proper scholarly procedures require that all quoted material be identified by quotation marks or indentation on the page, and the source of information and ideas, if from another, must be identified and be attributed to that source. Students are responsible for learning proper scholarly procedures. Credit as co-investigators must be given to individuals making significant contributions to concept development. Likewise, all individuals must be acknowledged for their contributions.  

Intellectual Property Statement
Applicants must work with the Office of Technology Transfer at Morgan State University for concepts requiring intellectual property considerations resulting from research discoveries, and other scholarly and creative activities related to the HRCC.
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Frequently Asked Questions
A detailed listing of program rules can be found on the SRC webpage.

What is the Health-Research Concepts Competition?
The Health-Research Concepts Competition (HRCC) is a competition open to Morgan State University students that will help empower undergraduates to develop innovative health-research concepts based on their interest(s). HRCC supports the Student Research Center’s (SRC’s) strategic objective to create opportunities for students and faculty to collaborate on innovative research projects.

Who is eligible to participate in the HRCC?
Primary applicants must be MSU undergraduate students that are members of the Student Research Center. To join the SRC complete an application online or in person at the SRC.

What are student and faculty benefits for participating in the HRCC?
Faculty and students from the top ten meritorious concepts would receive support for further development of the concept and possible funding up to $5000.

What is the role of faculty mentors and application requirements?
Students need to submit the application and provide additional documentation as required including, a letter of support from a faculty mentor. The faculty mentor’s role is to validate and support the development of research ideas and application submission.

What should be included in the letter of support?
Faculty mentor letters of support should entail the following components:
- Merit of concept explanation
- Feasibility of conceptual plan
- Approval of budget
- Ensure compliance with HRCC guidelines and ethical standards
- Level of provided support (time, mentorship, resources, etc.)

Submission Deadline
Faculty mentors must complete the attached Faculty Mentor Recommender Form below and submit to ascend_src@morgan.edu before 11:59 pm EDT on December 6th 2019.