



Call for Applications: Sandi Smith Research Fellowship 2026

To honor the exceptional scholarship and mentorship of former Director Sandi Smith, the Health & Risk Communication Center (HRCC) has founded an annual student research fellowship of \$2,000 in her name. The Sandi Smith Research Fellowship will assist Communication Arts & Sciences graduate students with expenses related to health, environment, science, or risk communication research projects. These funds are unrestricted.

Dr. Smith directed the HRCC from 2005 to 2017, and her work with students earned her the 2008 B. Audrey Fisher Mentorship Award from the International Communication Association as well as numerous other awards, most recently the MSU University Distinguished Professor award. A prolific scholar and ICA Fellow, Dr. Smith's passion for communication research, teaching, and health communication have been an inspiration for students over the years.

Eligibility

To be eligible to receive the Sandi Smith Research Fellowship, applicants must be enrolled in a graduate or linked program within Michigan State University's College of Communication Arts & Sciences, and the project must be completed during their time as a student. Applicant must be working on a research project related to health, environment, science or risk communication.

Note: Priority will be given to members of the Health & Risk Communication M.A. program and students who have completed the Health & Risk Com Graduate Certificate.

Application Materials

To apply for the Fellowship, applicant must include the following:

1. Curriculum Vitae or Resume
2. 250-word proposal/abstract/explanation of research project and brief 2-3 sentence explanation of what the funds would be used toward. Research projects should focus on health, environment, science or risk communication research.
3. A brief letter (less than one page) of support from the student's academic advisor stating that they will collaborate or oversee the research project.

Applications due November 2, 2026; Recipient will be announced approximately two weeks after submission deadline.

Refer questions to Wei Peng at pengwei@msu.edu.

Please email applications to Casmiera Thorman at thormanc@msu.edu.