



Nexus: Networking Across Disciplines fosters the emergence of interdisciplinary research teams by providing faculty with structured opportunities to learn about one another's research and brainstorm areas of mutual interest. Through a series of workshops several months apart, Nexus supports the initial stages of project development as faculty formulate shared research questions, consider analytical strategies, and identify potential funding sources.

Nexus 2023 centers around three summer workshops with a preliminary outline as follows:

Thursday, May 18 (9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. with lunch) (off-campus venue)

- Share individual research interests and identify areas of overlap
- Brainstorm possible directions for collaborative research

Friday, May 19 (9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. with lunch) (on-campus venue)

- Develop research questions and analytical approaches
- Plan strategies for advancing collaborations over the summer

Thursday, August 17 (9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. with lunch) (on-campus venue)

- Present proposed projects and strategies to sustain collaboration
- Discuss interdisciplinary funding opportunities and grant writing strategies

Nexus 2023 will target faculty in two recognized [research areas of focus and distinction](#): 1) Socioeconomic Mobility; and 2) Urban Health. Any faculty member working or planning to work in these areas can apply to participate in the program regardless of whether they participated in the Top-Tier Research Commission nomination process. Existing interdisciplinary teams of researchers can apply to participate if they are in the early stages of project development. Applications are due by 12 p.m. noon on Monday, April 10 (see attached cover sheet). Each faculty member in the Nexus program will receive a \$1,000 stipend for participating fully in the workshops, with half paid in June 2023 and the remainder in September 2023.

Nexus is organized by the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies and the Division of Research with support from the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, the Cato College of Education, and the College of Health and Human Services. Questions can be directed to Professor Beth Whitaker (bwhitaker@uncc.edu), Executive Director of the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies.



**Nexus: Networking Across Disciplines
Application Cover Sheet
Summer 2023**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 12:00 p.m. noon, Monday, April 10, 2023

Name: _____ **Title:** _____

Department: _____ **E-Mail:** _____

I am applying to participate in interdisciplinary brainstorming discussions in the following research area(s):

Socioeconomic Mobility

Urban Health

Please attach to this application:

- **Statement of Interest:** A short narrative (maximum 1 page single-spaced) outlining your: (1) motivation for participating in Nexus; (2) research interests, particularly as they relate to the targeted area of focus and distinction identified above; and (3) history of involvement in interdisciplinary research collaborations (if any). Please indicate if you are part of an existing team that is applying to participate in the Nexus program together.
- **Curriculum Vitae:** An abridged curriculum vitae that includes a complete list of publications and your most relevant teaching and service activities.
- **Statement of Support:** A statement of support for your application from your department chair (this can simply be a 1-2 sentence email).

Participant responsibilities:

If I am selected to participate in the Nexus program, I agree to:

- Read suggested materials about building interdisciplinary teams before the first workshop.
- Attend and actively participate in the early summer workshops on May 18 (9 a.m.-3 p.m.) and May 19 (9 a.m.-1 p.m.) with a goal of forming one or more working groups on related research topics. I will bring a laptop to facilitate searches and collaborative brainstorming in shared documents.
- Spend time over the summer interacting with colleagues in my working group to share and read materials and brainstorm collaborative research ideas.
- Prepare a presentation describing my group's proposed interdisciplinary research project(s) and strategies to sustain the collaboration. These may include continuing working group meetings into the academic year, submitting external grant proposals to targeted programs, and/or working toward a collaborative publication.
- Attend and actively participate in the closing workshop on August 17 (9 a.m.-3 p.m.) to present my group's plans, gather feedback, and provide feedback to other groups.
- Respond to periodic follow-up surveys to assess the status of collaborative research activities.
- Receive periodic emails about relevant programs and opportunities to promote and support interdisciplinary research.

If I am selected to participate in the Nexus program and fulfill the above responsibilities, I understand that I will receive a stipend of \$1,000 divided evenly between my June 15, 2023, and September 15, 2023, paychecks.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Save materials as a single PDF document with your last name as the file name and send it as an email attachment to interdisciplinary@uncc.edu by 12:00 pm noon on Monday, April 10, 2023.