



## **Nexus 2026: Making an Impact**

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 summer workshops, Nexus supports the initial stages of project development as faculty formulate shared research questions, consider analytical strategies, and identify potential funding sources.

With a theme of "Making an Impact," Nexus 2026 aims to foster interdisciplinary collaborations that amplify the real-world impact of academic research, creative work, and innovation. At a time when the value of higher education is under scrutiny, this theme invites scholars to work across disciplines to translate ideas and discoveries into meaningful societal benefits. (For more information about this year's theme, see the [Nexus website](#).) The program centers around three summer workshops:

Thursday, May 14 (9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. with lunch) (Harris Alumni Center)

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

Friday, May 15 (9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. with lunch) (Harris Alumni Center)

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

Wednesday, August 12 (9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. with lunch) (Harris Alumni Center)

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

Any full-time UNC Charlotte faculty member working or planning to work in these areas can apply to participate in the program. Existing interdisciplinary teams of researchers can apply to participate only if they are in the initial stages of project development and are seeking additional collaborators. Each faculty member who participates fully in the Nexus 2026 program will receive \$1,000 in research funds in the 2026-27 fiscal year to jumpstart a collaborative project. Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Monday, April 6 (see attached cover sheet).

Nexus is organized by the College of Humanities & Earth and Social Sciences and the Division of Research with support from the Cato College of Education, the College of Health and Human Services, the College of Computing and Informatics, and the William States Lee College of Engineering. Questions can be directed to CHES Associate Dean for Research and Interdisciplinary Collaboration Beth Whitaker ([bwhitaker@charlotte.edu](mailto:bwhitaker@charlotte.edu)).



## Nexus 2026 Application Cover Sheet

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: 5:00 p.m., Monday, April 6, 2026**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Department:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**List 3 keywords/topics related to this year's theme around which you would like to brainstorm with colleagues:**

\_\_\_\_\_

### **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 Nexus 2026 theme; 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 that you save as a PDF and insert into your application package).

### **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 14 (9 a.m.-3 p.m.) and May 15 (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(s) 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 12 (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 interdisciplinary research.

If I am selected to participate in the Nexus program and fulfill the above responsibilities, I understand that I will receive \$1,000 in research funds in the 2026-27 fiscal year to jumpstart a collaborative project.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Applicant's Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

**Save materials as a single PDF document with your last name as the file name and submit it using [this form](#) by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 6, 2026.**