School of Graduate Studies & Research and CWU Libraries
Open Access Publication Award

Overview
CWU is committed to supporting faculty in the dissemination of their scholarly work. This award provides financial support to tenured and tenure-track faculty to offset potential costs associated with publishing in open access platforms. By supporting open access publication, this program promotes equitable access to high-quality, peer-reviewed scholarly work and advances the principles of open scholarship.

Although open access publications are free for readers, publishing costs may be incurred by authors or their institutions in the form of article processing charges. While a variety of open access publishing models exist, fees can be substantial. In addition, many tenured and tenure-track faculty with external research funding are required—depending on sponsor requirements—to make their research outputs publicly accessible.

CWU recognizes that internal funding sources (e.g., faculty development funds) may be limited, depleted, or unavailable to support these costs, particularly in disciplines with limited access to external funding. Consequently, this award is intended to support the formal publication of open access, peer-reviewed scholarly work produced by CWU faculty.

Note: This award is intended solely to provide financial assistance for open access publication costs. Acceptance of this award does not transfer, assign, or grant any intellectual property rights to CWU.

Eligibility
Applicants must meet all the following criteria:
- Tenured or tenure-track faculty position at CWU.
- Must be a result from scholarly work initiated at CWU (not a prior institution).
- Must provide proof of formal publication acceptance before funding can be awarded. Because funding is limited, we are unable to reserve or conditionally approve funds for manuscripts that are still under review. This allows us to make funding available for confirmed publication expenses and ensures that limited program funds are not held for costs that may change or may not ultimately be incurred.
- Applicants requesting funding for open access publication costs must be able to demonstrate that they lack other available sources of support, such as external grants or institutional resources.

Available Funding
The School of Graduate Studies & Research and the CWU Libraries have committed a total of $20,000 to support this funding opportunity. Funds will be awarded on a first come, first served basis. Once all available funds have been fully disbursed, the application will close until additional funding becomes available. Future funding is subject to availability.

Maximum Award Amount: $1,200
This award is intended to partially cover open access publishing costs. Recipients are responsible for securing any remaining funds required to pay publication fees in full.

Allowable Costs
Award funds may be used to support reasonable open access publishing expenses, including but not limited to:

- Open-access journal or book fees
- Article processing charges (APCs)
- Page charges
- Color image or figure charges
- Copyright image re-use licensing fees

Award Requirements

- Must be able to demonstrate proof of acceptance
- Funds must be used to publish with a reputable, non-predatory publisher.
- Authors may receive funding once per fiscal year, and each article may receive funding for one author only.
- Published works must be licensed under a Creative Commons license.
- Authors will need to submit a copy of the final publication to be deposited in CWU's institutional repository, ScholarWorks, to ensure broad visibility and long-term preservation.

Payment and Reimbursement

- If CWU is covering publication fees in full, a purchase order may be issued directly to the publisher. The recipient must follow standard purchasing procedures to initiate a purchase requisition and submit a copy of the award letter with the request.
- If CWU is covering a portion of the publication fees, recipients may request reimbursement via a non-travel expense report (if paying personally). A detailed publisher invoice/receipt and a copy of the award letter must be submitted with the non-travel expense report
- Award funds must be expended within 12 months of the award letter date.

Acknowledgment: This Open-Access Publication Award is modeled after University of Oklahoma's Research Publication Subvention Funding Program.

Additional open access publishing information:

CWU Libraries has agreements with several publishers that allow faculty to publish open access at no additional cost. As of Winter 2026, these publishers include ACM (Association for Computing Machinery), American Chemical Society, and Cambridge University Press.

When the publisher does not offer open access publishing, or when related costs are prohibitive, authors may still be able to deposit an open access copy of their work in ScholarWorks. Please contact the ScholarWorks Team for information.

To apply for this funding opportunity, complete the application form:

Open Access Publishing Award Application – Fill out form