

ACI Technical or Educational Committee Support Letter

ACI Foundation's Concrete Research Council (CRC) requires ACI Committee backing in the form of a support letter for research proposals to be considered for ACI Foundation grant funding.

The overall CRC research proposal process is as follows: the research proposal along with letters of ACI committee and industry support, curriculum vitae, and references are submitted to the CRC by December 1; a CRC review group evaluates the proposal and supporting documents in relation to other submitted research proposals; the CRC ballots the top proposals; and grant awards are announced soon after the spring ACI convention.

A committee/researcher should consider the following criteria when writing/requesting a support letter:

1. Considering research needs for the committee and working with researchers fall under the guidelines of committee work and the committee is free to participate in these activities without TAC approval.
2. The letter should be addressed to the CRC Committee Chair, Joe Bracci, and be included in the proposal submittal. Letters must be completed and to the researcher well before the December 1 deadline.
3. The Chair of the committee needs to sign the letter.
4. An administrative ballot is not required, but may be necessary for the chair to adequately evaluate whether the committee supports this research. Researchers should consider this in their timeline when requesting a letter from a committee.
5. The CRC review group considers the following criteria when assessing the research proposals. The committee should address the last 3 bullet items in their support letter:
 - Overall quality of the proposal;
 - Experience of the principal investigator and suitability of the equipment & facilities;
 - Whether co-funding is identified for the proposed research and/or the potential for additional external funding for further future research beyond the present scope;
 - Relevancy to ACI and the concrete industry;
 - Potential to advance ACI standards, improve industry products or systems or provide thrust into new markets;
 - And, utilization of results by ACI Committees, including if and how the intended research results could improve the technical of the committee.