TIPS FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS
Writing Glasscock Center Applications
See the Center’s Funding Opportunities webpage for awards and grants, due dates, and information:

http://glasscock.tamu.edu/grants-funding/
Glasscock Center grants and awards are competitive. Criteria for funding include:

- Whether the research is humanities research
- The quality of the research topic
- Clear articulation of the project and its contribution to humanities research
What is humanities research?

Humanities research studies how people across cultures, in societies, as individuals, and throughout history have understood human experience. Humanities inquiries take as their objects of study documents, human activities, artifacts, historical processes, expressions of culture, and individual experience to document and interrogate human experience. Academic disciplines, including philosophy, literary criticism, religious studies, history, and arts criticism traditionally fall under the umbrella of “the humanities.” The social sciences, the arts, and the hard sciences often use their own methods to ask the kinds of questions of meaning and interpretation of experience addressed in traditional humanities disciplines.
From the Glasscock Center’s website:

“The Glasscock Center supports research that advances knowledge through investigation, inquiry, and interpretation of human experience, culture, and expressive forms. Humanities research may be grounded in traditional humanities disciplines and methods, interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary research, and non-humanities or technical disciplines which clearly foreground interpretive approaches to questions of meaning in human experiences and endeavors.”

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Articulate what your project contributes to humanities research.

Whether you are in a traditional humanities discipline, a social science, education, architecture or another field, discuss your approach, your questions, and your interpretations of material or data, as part of larger inquiries in the humanities.
Be specific.

Just because a project deals with humans doesn’t make it humanities research and just because the project is in a traditional humanities discipline does not guarantee funding. The quality of the project and of the application itself matter.
Write your abstract or project description for an interdisciplinary audience.

- **Do not** assume readers to be expert in your field, to know discipline-specific terminology (e.g., “antanaclastic trope”), or to recognize the significance of your topic within your discipline.

- Take the time to explain the importance of your project within your discipline and beyond.

- Adapt the abstract you submit to conferences for a panel of interdisciplinary readers evaluating humanities research.
Abstract Example 1:

Successful:

“The ways rural Chinese women use the Internet differs significantly from that of other East Asian regions. Internet use among rural Chinese women is altering gender relations and shifting power relations in local governments, as well as in the domestic sphere. The shift in power relations suggests that women are influencing specific domains of Chinese culture from the periphery.”

Less Successful:

“Data shows that Internet use among rural Chinese women proves a narrowing gender gap. Women are now participating in Chinese culture, which is having an impact.”
Abstract Example 2:

Successful:

“Scholars have long argued that the last poems of X (1930-35) evince a sudden and heretofore inexplicable pacifism. Fifteen uncatalogued letters, written by poet X to her confidant R, are housed in the Y archive. These letters should reveal that between 1915 and 1920, X developed the approach to just war theory that later came to define her work. Examination and interpretation of these letters has the potential to change our understanding of one of the most prominent Slovenian poets of the 20th century.”

Less Successful:

“Letters I expect to be found in the archive have not been transcribed before. Transcribing these letters will add to the information about X’s poetry.”
Follow application directions.

Fill in all boxes with accurate information:

- Title of conference (full title, no acronyms)
- Dates of conference
- Budget breakdown, etc.
PROOFREAD!
Once you have written your application, take it to your department’s Glasscock Center Advisory Committee representative, the Center’s Director, or Associate Director for feedback and suggestions. For a list of current Advisory Committee representatives, visit:

http://glasscock.tamu.edu/about-us/glasscock-center-staff/advisory-committee/
**Funding Opportunities for Graduate Students:**

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http://glasscock.tamu.edu/grants-funding/all-funding-opportunities/