

Project Summary and Overview

NSF ENG CAREER Proposal

Workshop

May 8-12, 2023

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Disclaimer

The views expressed are those of the presenter and do not represent the opinions of the National Science Foundation or the Federal Government.



DISCLAIMER

Required Sections of a CAREER Proposal (NSF 22-586)



- Cover Sheet
- Project Summary
- Project Description
- References Cited
- Biographical Sketch
- Budget
- Budget Justification
- Current and Pending Support
- Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources
- Data Management Plan
- Postdoctoral Mentoring Plan (if applicable)
- Additional Supplementary Documents
 - Departmental Letter
 - Letters of Collaboration (if applicable)
 - Single Copy Document – PECASE Eligibility Statement

CAREER Proposal Project Summary

The Project Summary Should Be **CONCISE**, **COMPLETE** and **CLEAR**

- Informative to other persons working in the same or related fields
- Understandable to a broad audience within the scientific domain
- NOT an abstract of the proposal
- Project Summary \neq Technical Abstract
- No Jargon
- No undefined acronyms
- Not recommended to cut and paste from (or to) Project Description



CAREER Proposal Project Summary

- Provides first impression
- PDs use the Summary to determine program fit and type of reviewers required
- Reviewers use the Summary to find out what are the key objectives of the proposal
- May be the first section reviewers read – First Impression
- Consider writing Project Summary FIRST and LAST



CAREER Proposal Project Summary

Each proposal must contain a summary of the proposed project not more than **one page in length**. The Project Summary consists of

- **Overview**
- **Statement on the Intellectual merit of the proposed activity**
- **Statement on the broader impacts of the proposed activity**



Source: NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) (NSF 23-1)

CAREER Proposal Project Summary Overview

The overview includes a description of the activity that would result if the proposal were funded and a statement of objectives and methods to be employed.

- Description of **the activities that would result if the proposal were funded**
- What will the PI do?
- Briefly describes integration of research & education
- Is NOT a literature review or review of PI's background



CAREER Proposal Project Summary Statement of Intellectual Merit

The statement on intellectual merit should describe the potential of the proposed activity to advance knowledge.

- What is the potential for the proposed activity to advance knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields?
- To what extent do the proposed activities suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts?



CAREER Proposal Project Summary Statement of Broader Impacts

The statement on broader impacts should describe the potential of the proposed activity to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes.

- Will the research itself benefit society?
- Who cares if the research is successful other than PI and PI's institution



CAREER Proposal Project Summary State of Broader Impacts

NSF values the advancement of scientific knowledge and activities that contribute to achievement of societally relevant outcomes. Such outcomes include, but are not limited to:

- ✓ full participation of women, persons with disabilities, and other underrepresented groups in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM);
- ✓ improved STEM education and educator development at any level;
- ✓ increased public scientific literacy and public engagement with science and technology;
- ✓ improved well-being of individuals in society;
- ✓ development of a diverse, globally competitive STEM workforce;
- ✓ increased partnerships between academia, industry, and others;
- ✓ improved national security;
- ✓ increased economic competitiveness of the United States; and
- ✓ enhanced infrastructure for research and education.

**MUST I CHECK ALL
OF THE BOXES???**



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QUESTIONS?



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Other General Topics (Cover Sheet)

- **Program Solicitation Number.** Research.gov Users: Select the CAREER program solicitation number in Step 1 of the Prepare New Proposal Wizard (Funding Opportunity). Grants.gov users: The program solicitation will be pre-populated by Grants.gov on the NSF Grant Application Cover Page.
- **NSF Unit of Consideration.** Research.gov users: Select at least one specific core program in Step 2 of the Prepare New Proposal Wizard (Where to Apply). Grants.gov users should refer to Section VI.1.2. of the NSF Grants.gov Application Guide for specific instructions on how to **designate the NSF Unit of Consideration**. For assistance in determining which program(s) to choose, refer to the NSF [Guide to Programs](#), which provides descriptions of NSF research-supporting programs.
- **Project Title.** The project title must begin with "CAREER:" and follow with an informative title.
- **Co-PIs.** No co-PIs are permitted on the Cover Sheet.
- **RDW – REMEMBER to Include Unit of Consideration, i.e. to what specific Program you are submitting**

Other General Topics (Departmental Letter)



- The Departmental Letter should be no more than 2 pages in length and include the department head's name and title below the signature. The letter should contain the following elements:
- A statement to the effect that the PI is eligible for the CAREER program.
- An indication that the PI's proposed CAREER research and education activities are supported by and advance the educational and research goals of the department and the organization, and that the department is committed to the support and professional development of the PI; and
- A description of a) the relationship between the CAREER project, the PI's career goals and job responsibilities, and the mission of his/her department/organization, and b) the ways in which the department head (or equivalent) will ensure the appropriate mentoring of the PI, in the context of the PI's career development and his/her efforts to integrate research and education throughout the period of the award and beyond.
- **Note that the Department Letter should not be construed as a Letter of Support for the PI and should address only the items listed above.**
- **RDW – The letter should NOT be a Form Letter**

Other General Topics (Post Submission)

- As soon as the proposal is submitted via Research.gov or Grants.gov by your sponsored projects office, **make sure to print a final copy of the submitted version for your records.**
- If mistakes or missing information/documentation are found ***prior to the CAREER deadline***, you can submit a proposal file update that would be automatically accepted.
- File updates will NOT be allowed after the deadline, except to correct a technical problem with the proposal (i.e., PDF file formatting or print problems).
- If the CAREER deadline has passed and you discover a formatting or print problem, contact your disciplinary Program Officer immediately to discuss whether NSF will approve a proposal file update.
- You should thoroughly review your submitted proposal document in order to identify any printing problems, leaving enough time to correct any problems prior to the deadline. This is particularly critical for those submitting via Grants.gov as the transfer process from that portal to NSF's systems can be technically challenging due to the compliance checking process.