

CRA 2002 Academic Careers Workshop



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Type of Proposal



**Individual
or
Group**

Program or Project

Research or Education

Target Organization

Next, What do You Want?



Equipment

Things

**S
a
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a
r
y**

Travel

People

Facilities

Expenses

Services

Institutional Environment



- Research Base (Faculty, Students, etc.)
- Appropriate Research and Teaching Policies
- Adequate Infrastructure
- Commitment to Proposed Projects (\$\$)

Defining the Project



- Choose a problem/idea you wish to pursue
- Survey the literature
- Contact established investigators in the area
- Prepare a brief concept paper
- Discuss the Idea with others
- Get started on the project

Your Proposal Should Answer these Questions



- What are you going to do?
- Why is this important?
- What is your unique contribution?
- Is it feasible?
- Why are you the best person to do it?
- What are others doing in this area?
- How will you do it?

Important Activities



- Review Comments from Previous Submissions
- Examine Funding Agency Ground Rules
- Talk with the Targeted Program Officer
- Coordinate with your Institution
- Allow Adequate Development and Processing Time

A Proposal Contains



Cover Sheet and other special forms
Suggested List of Reviewers to (not) use - optional
Project Summary
Table of Contents
Project Description (including results from prior NSF support)
References Cited
Biographical Sketches
Budget sheets and justifications
Current and Pending Support
Facilities, Equipment and other Resources

Appendices are usually not allowed

Check the GPG for details:

http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2002/nsf022/nsf0202_1.html

Project Description



- Problem Statement
- Significance
- Related Work
- Feasibility
- Strategy for Accomplishing Project
- Assessment Plan
- Dissemination Method
- Future Intentions

Proposal Presentation Hints



- Present your ideas clearly and succinctly
- Present the main thrust of the project at the beginning
- Use a concise, scientific writing style
- Organize to permit skimming
- Reviewers are technical peers - provide adequate explanation

***Always remember that you are selling this to the
REVIEWERS***

Advice on Budgets



- Request Realistic Items and Amounts
- Justify Anything at all Unusual
- Include Necessary Items Only
- Remain within Guidelines
- Indicate Institutional Cost Sharing

Get assistance from your sponsored research office

Excessive budgets really irritate reviewers!

Expect budget negotiations with NSF

Proposal Processing



- Submission via Fastlane
- Assignment to Program
- Merit Review {mail, panel}
- Analysis of Reviews
- Action

Six months time from submission to action

Evaluation Criteria



What is the intellectual merit of the proposed activity?

How important is the proposed activity to advancing knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields? How well qualified is the proposer (individual or team) to conduct the project? To what extent does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative and original concepts? How well conceived and organized is the proposed activity? Is there sufficient access to resources?

What are the broader impacts of the proposed activity?

How well does the activity advance discovery and understanding while promoting teaching, training, and learning? How well does the proposed activity broaden the participation of underrepresented groups. To what extent will it enhance the infrastructure for research and education, such as facilities, instrumentation, networks, and partnerships? Will the results be disseminated broadly to enhance scientific and technological understanding? What may be the benefits of the proposed activity to society?

Possible Conclusions



- Award
- Declination
- Withdrawal
- Returned as Inappropriate

If Your Proposal is Declined **REMEMBER**



- Awards are Highly Competitive
- Budgetary Limitations Exert Influence
- NSF Priorities Exert Influence

*So, examine the reviews and
TRY ONCE MORE*

NSF-Wide Programs for Beginning Faculty



CAREER:

<http://www.nsf.gov/home/crssprgm/career/start.htm>

PECASE:

<http://www.nsf.gov/home/crssprgm/pecase/start.htm>

RUI/ROA:

<http://www.ehr.nsf.gov/crssprgm/rui/start.shtm>