

# 2023 – 2024 Faculty Seminars & Workshops

Research Development Service (RDS)

<https://u.tamu.edu/RDScalendar>

Annually RDS hosts opportunities for the Texas A&M Research Community to increase their knowledge and skills in research proposal development to federal funding agencies. Academic Year 23-24 Professional Development opportunities are offered in in-person and virtual formats. Registration is required for BOTH types of events. Virtual events will supply Zoom links upon registration. These events are for faculty. Offerings of professional development for [postdocs](#) and [graduate students](#) are listed on the organizational webpage.

## National Science Foundation (NSF)

### Getting to Know the NSF

**September 14, 2023, 1:30 – 3:00 pm, Virtual**

An overview of the National Science Foundation (NSF) covering the organization, proposal types, proposal review, and review criteria (Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts), as well as discussion about what's new at the NSF. Useful to researchers when deciding whether to submit a proposal to NSF and to which program to submit. Open to all faculty levels.

Presenter: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

**REGISTER**

### NSF Proposal Supplementary Documents

**September 27, 2023, 1:30 – 3:00 pm, Virtual**

Discussing supplementary documents required for NSF proposals, including recent changes to Biosketch and Current & Pending Support. It will also provide information on available resources to assist faculty with developing these documents. Open to all faculty levels.

Presenter: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

**REGISTER**

### \*Introduction of the NSF CAREER Program

**October 12, 2023, 1:30 – 3:00 pm, Rudder Tower, 301**

An introduction to the National Science Foundation's Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program, including PI eligibility, deadlines, proposal requirements, what makes the CAREER program different from other NSF programs, why CAREER proposals are not typical research proposals, how CAREER proposals are reviewed differently from typical research proposals, and available resources to assist faculty with preparing CAREER proposals.

Presenter: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

**REGISTER**

### \*Timeline and Strategies for Developing a CAREER Proposal

**October 25, 2023, 11:45 – 1:00 pm, Zachry Engineering Education Complex, Chevron, Room 298**

**Discussion and Q&A with former NSF Program Officers and past CAREER Awardees**

Timeline and strategies to develop a successful NSF CAREER proposal, how to decide what research topics to pursue, how to find a home program at NSF, when to submit, and how to build a competitive case.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

**REGISTER**

### \*CAREER Proposal Project Description (Part 1) Long-term Career Plan and Prior Achievements\*

**November 9, 2023, 11:45 – 1:00 pm, MSC 2406A**

Discussion and Q&A with former NSF Program Officers and past CAREER Awardees. Required and recommended sections to include in a project description, effective ways to connect an NSF CAREER plan to long-term goals, why having a section on "Prior Achievements" is recommended, and what to include in the "Prior Achievements" section.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

**REGISTER**

### \*CAREER Proposal Project Description (Part 2) Research Plan

**December 6, 2023, 11:45 – 1:00 pm, MSC 2406A**

**Discussion and Q&A with former NSF Program Officers and past CAREER Awardees**

Research goals and objectives, scope of the project, best practices and common mistakes, differences between fundamental research and development work, why many reviewers are in favor of hypothesis-driven research, why having a section on "Relationship to the Present State of Knowledge in the Field" is recommended, and common research plan weaknesses.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

**REGISTER**

### \*CAREER Proposal Project Description (Part 3) Education Plan

**January 23, 2024, 11:45 – 1:00 pm, Plant Pathology (West Campus), Room 207**

**Discussion and Q&A with former NSF Program Officers and past CAREER Awardees**

Education goals and objectives, creating quantifiable metrics and specific plans for success, integration of research and education, leveraging Texas A&M's HSI status, and examples of good and bad education objectives.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

**REGISTER**

### Education and Outreach Expo

**February 7, 2024, 1:30 – 3:00 pm, Rudder Tower, 601**

**Presentation and Expo**

This virtual interactive event will start with introducing 20+ campus representatives in programs that faculty can collaborate on the education and outreach aspects of their NSF proposals, to be followed by an expo for attendees to network with these campus program representatives. All faculty are encouraged to attend.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

**REGISTER**

### \*NSF CAREER Writing Groups - Initial Meeting

**February 15, 2024, 1:30 – 2:30 pm, Virtual**

This meeting is to familiarize faculty with the goals and organization of the TAMU NSF CAREER proposal peer writing groups, including resource materials, Q&A session, and scheduling of writing meetings for March – May. The groups will then meet bi-weekly going through the entire preparation process of their CAREER proposal with peer review and input as they write each section of their CAREER proposals.

Presenter: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

**REGISTER**

**\*Structuring and Formatting CAREER Proposals for Reviewers**  
*February 21, 2024, 11:45 – 1:00 pm, Zachry Engineering Education Complex, Chevron Room 299*

**Discussion and Q&A with former NSF Program Officers and past CAREER Awardees**

Tips for making an NSF CAREER proposal stand out, section hierarchy and structuring of the proposal, using NSF language, graphics advice, formatting (e.g., fonts & white space), and features of strong departmental letters.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

**REGISTER**

**\*CAREER Proposal Project Summary**

*March 6, 2024, 11:45 – 1:00 pm, Rudder Tower, 601*

**Discussion and Q&A with former NSF Program Officers and past CAREER Awardees**

Discussion of what is required for the Project Summary. Tips on how to write it most effectively for an NSF CAREER proposal. Why this might be the only document some reviewers read.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

**REGISTER**

**\*Tips from Recent NSF CAREER Awardees**

*March 19, 2024, 11:45 – 1:00 pm, Rudder Tower, 601*

**Presentations and Q&A**

Several recent CAREER awardees from Texas A&M University will share their experience and advice on how to write successful CAREER proposals.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

**REGISTER**

**How to Address NSF Reviewer Comments from Previous Submissions**

*April 11, 2024, 11:45 – 1:00 pm, Plant Pathology Building (West Campus), Room 207*

**Discussion and Q&A with former NSF Program Officers and past CAREER Awardees**

How and where to address reviewers' comments in a re-write, whether every comment should be addressed, and benefits of talking with NSF program directors on declined proposals.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

**REGISTER**

**\*NSF CAREER Project Summary Feedback Session**

*April 24, 2024, 1:30 – 3:00 pm, Rudder Tower, 601*

**Roundtable Discussion**

Participants will bring their CAREER project summaries to a group to get feedback on strengths and weaknesses from former program directors, recent CAREER awardees, research development staff, and peer attendees. Each group will review 4 – 6 project summaries.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

**REGISTER**

## Department of Defense (DoD)

**Introduction to Young Investigator Programs and Faculty Fellowships**

*March 5, 2023, 1:30 – 3:00 pm, Virtual*

Programs targeting young investigators provide an opportunity for assistant professors to compete among equals, often for prestigious awards. Faculty Fellowships can help prepare faculty for successfully competing for these awards. This event will discuss advantages and strategies in applying to these young investigator programs and faculty fellowships. Details and best practices for applying to programs at federal agencies and foundations will include Department of Defense, National Institutes of Health, and NASA, as well as the Gulf Research Program and American Chemical Society.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

**REGISTER**

## Department of Energy (DoE)

**Department of Energy (DOE) Early Career Research Program**

*September 15, 2023, 9:00-12:00am*

**Mitchell Institute for Fundamental Physics & Astronomy, Hawking Auditorium**

This 3-hour event will include presentations by DOE program officers, and past awardees, including time for Q&A. The RDS and DOE collaborative has a comprehensive plan to assist faculty targeting this funding opportunity and will present information on developing a competitive proposal for this program.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

**REGISTER**

## National Institute of Health (NIH)

**GWSW - Write Winning NIH Grant Proposals**

*February 22, 2024, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm, Rudder 601*

The seminar provides a broad overview of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), identifying NIH funding opportunities, the NIH proposal submission and review process, and strategies to build a competitive NIH proposal.

Presenter: Dr. John Robertson, Consultant from [GWSW](#).

Contact: [Shannon Eyre](#), RDS, Sr. Administrative Coordinator

**REGISTER**

## General Proposal Writing

**Writing Successful Proposals**

*November 15, 2023, 1:30 – 3:00pm, Virtual*

A seminar designed to offer faculty an overview of strategic proposal design and best practices to create a competitive research proposal. Applicable to all disciplines. Early Career faculty are encouraged to attend.

Presenter: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

**REGISTER**

## Humanities

**Finding Humanities Funding**

*Spring 2024, Two 4 hours sessions, TIME TBD, Virtual*

This webinar will discuss how to find humanities funding in today's funding landscape. We will describe the types of funding available, their policies, and the tendencies present among current funders. We'll talk about the relative weight assigned by administrators to various kinds of funding, including internal vs. external funding and the value of each. We'll talk in some detail about how to write an effective proposal, using brief examples from successful bids for funding. And we'll consider the value of writing groups as laboratories for generating more robust bids for support. Finally, we'll consider how to respond to the success or failure of proposals—how to learn from our mistakes and improve our grant-writing skills. Questions will be encouraged.

Contact: [Shannon Eyre](#), RDS Sr. Administrative Coordinator

**REGISTER**

**Coffee Conversations Series: Supporting Humanities Research at Texas A&M University**

*October 5 & 12, 2023, 1:30 pm, Glasscock Center, Room 311*

**Sponsored by the Glasscock Center & Division of Research**

An informal series over coffee and refreshments that overviews two funding opportunities for Hispanic Serving Institutions! Bring your questions for answers and comments by 1) a recently funded NEH Faculty Fellow on the individual awards for faculty at HISs. NEH Institutional proposals will also be part of the discussion over coffee.

Contact: [Shannon Eyre](#), RDS Sr. Administrative Coordinator

**REGISTER**