

These events are designed to help faculty prepare competitive proposals for the National Science Foundation's Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program!



To learn more, about the NSF CAREER program, click [HERE!](#)

To register online for Texas A&M CAREER events, click [HERE!](#)

1. GETTING TO KNOW THE NSF*

Sept 14, 2023, Thurs., 1:30 - 3:00 pm, Virtual
Webinar

An overview of the NSF covering the organization chart, proposal types, proposal review, the review criteria (Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts), as well as discussion about what is new at the NSF. Useful to researchers when deciding whether to submit a proposal to the NSF and which NSF program to submit to.

2. NSF PROPOSAL SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTS*

Sept. 27, 2023, Wed., 1:30 - 3:00 pm, Virtual
Webinar

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.

3. INTRODUCTION TO THE NSF CAREER PROGRAM ♦

Oct. 12, 2023, Thurs., 1:30 - 3:00 pm, Rudder Tower, Room 301
Kick-Off In-Person

An introduction to the NSF 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.

4. TIMELINE AND STRATEGIES FOR DEVELOPING A CAREER PROPOSAL +

Oct. 25, 2023, Wed., 11:45 - 1:00 pm, Zachry Engineering Education Complex, Chevron Room 298
Discussion and Q&A With Former NSF Program Officers & Past CAREER Awardees

Timeline and strategies to develop a successful 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 proposal.

5. CAREER PROPOSAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION (PART 1) - LONG-TERM CAREER PLAN AND PRIOR ACHIEVEMENTS +

Nov. 9, 2023, Thurs., 11:45 - 1:00 pm, MSC 2406A

Discussion and Q&A With Former NSF Program Officers & Past CAREER Awardees

Required and recommended sections to include in a project description, effective ways to connect a CAREER plan to the PI's long-term goals, why a section on "Prior Achievements" is recommended, and what to include in the "Prior Achievements" section.

6. CAREER PROPOSAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION (PART 2) - RESEARCH PLAN +

Dec. 6, 2023, Wed., 11:45 - 1:00 pm, MSC 2406A

Discussion and Q&A With Former NSF Program Officers & 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.

7. CAREER PROPOSAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION (PART 3) - EDUCATION PLAN +

Jan. 23, 2024, Tues., 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

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.

8. EDUCATION AND OUTREACH EXPO *

Feb. 7, 2024, Wed., 1:30 - 3:00 pm, Rudder Tower, Room 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, followed by an expo for attendees to network with these campus program representatives.

9. NSF CAREER WRITING GROUPS - INITIAL MEETING

Feb. 15, 2024, Thurs., 1:30 - 3:00 pm, Virtual

Online Meetings

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.

10. STRUCTURING AND FORMATTING CAREER PROPOSALS FOR REVIEWERS +

Feb. 21, 2024, Wed., 11:45 - 1:00 pm, Zachry Engineering Education Complex, Chevron Room 299

Discussion and Q&A With Former NSF Program Officers & Past CAREER Awardees

Tips for making a 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.

11. CAREER PROPOSAL PROJECT SUMMARY +

Mar. 6, 2024, Wed., 11:45 - 1:00 pm, Rudder Tower, Room 601

Discussion and Q&A With Former NSF Program Officers & Past CAREER Awardees

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

12. TIPS FORM RECENT NSF CAREER AWARDEES +

Mar. 19, 2024, Tues., 11:45 - 1:00 pm, Rudder Tower, Room 601

Presentations and Q&A

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

13. HOW TO ADDRESS NSF REVIEWERS' COMMENTS FROM PREVIOUS SUBMISSIONS *+

Apr. 11, 2024, Thurs., 11:45 - 1:00 pm, Plant Pathology Building (West Campus), Room 207

Discussion and Q&A With Former NSF Program Officers & Past CAREER Awardees

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

14. NSF CAREER PROJECT SUMMARY FEEDBACK SESSION ◆

Apr. 24, 2024, Wed., 1:30 - 3:00 pm, Rudder Tower, Room 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.

* Events covering general topics about NSF, not specific to the CAREER program

+ Lunch will be provided to registered attendees

◆ Refreshments will be available

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:

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for agreeing to host rooms within their colleges for the lunch discussions. We look forward to this opportunity to get to know each other better as these colleges share their "home" for these lunches.