

NSF CAREER Cohort Program

Description:

Are you an assistant professor with a five-year research agenda in mind that falls within the funding mission of the National Science Foundation and has research and education activities that are innovative, ambitious, and can be planned and carried out over a five-year duration?

The NSF CAREER award is a highly-prestigious award that provides funding to help applicants develop in their faculty careers as both outstanding researchers and educators. It is not just about a single project, but about your research program. Successful proposals are five-year plans that build a firm foundation for a lifetime of contributions to research and education in the context of the Principal Investigator's organization. Successful Principal Investigators will propose creative, effective research and education plans, developed within the context of the mission, goals, and resources of their organizations, going outside the education box of regular research proposals in your field. The research plan should demonstrate the PI's ability to conduct innovative research over the five years. In addition, an essential component of a CAREER proposal is a solid education plan. The PI will also need to provide an effective integration of the two, developing a plan that integrates the process and outcomes of their research into their education activities. (NSF CAREER solicitation 20-525 and additional info at

https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503214.)

Applicants accepted into the TAMUCC NSF CAREER Cohort Program will spend roughly 18-20 hours in early 2020 in preparation of a NSF CAREER submission either Summer 2020 or 2021; they will also commit to: 1) producing a 5 to 10 page draft of the proposal project description section by February 13 for review and critique; 2) producing a 8 to 15 page draft of the proposal project description section by March 19 for review and critique, and 3) preparing 3 more revisions of the project description, along with other required components, on the timeline provided by R&I and supplemented by work and timelines determined by an external consultant (likely April -early June). In return, the Division of Research and Innovation will fund a consultant to work with at least five participants who complete the Cohort Program for a 2020 submission (a \$1500 value) and who can commit to the timelines of the Cohort Program. Included in the activities are two-in house reviews of the proposal, a mock panel review of the revision conducted by experienced NSF panelists from TAMUCC (may not be direct content experts), and additional support/coaching on education and broader impacts components, data management plan, and other required NSF documents.

The application will require approval of the department chair (email from the chair added to other materials), along with a two-page maximum draft of your proposed research project and verification of individual's eligibility for the CAREER program, as well as any prior submissions to CAREER. Please also indicate if you have never submitted to NSF as a PI. Guided by the requirements of the NSF CAREER program, your summary will also need to discuss the education component, which should be integrated with the research. Typically, strong project summaries include an introduction to your project, a description of the key facts known about your topic, a description of the knowledge gap or critical need that your project will address, your central hypothesis or statement of need, your rationale, your objectives, and the significance and expected outcomes of the project. Consider how the research and education components are integrated and try to include that in the



draft. These materials (two-page draft, verification of CAREER eligibility and notice of prior CAREER submissions, plus prior NSF PI experience and email from chair) are due December 20 at 5 pm to colleen.fitzgerald@tamucc.edu. R&I hopes to issue acceptances by December 27.

Deadlines and important dates (Note TBD times and/or dates will be scheduled when participants have been accepted):

December 20, 2019	Application Due 5 pm to colleen.fitzgerald@tamucc.edu
January 14, 2020	Program starts with Day 1 of workshop (8:30 am – 4:30 pm, lunch included)
January 17, 2020	Day 2 of workshop (8:30 am – 4:30 pm, lunch included)
January 24, 2020	NSF PO email inquiry/one-pager to assess program suitability (forward to R&I)
January 28, 2020	NSF CAREER Program Introduction (Time TBD)
February 5, 2020	NSF CAREER Broader Impacts (Time TBD)
February 15, 2020	First draft of CAREER project description (using NSF guidelines from PAPPG and CAREER solicitation) due; minimum of 5 pages
Late February/Early March 2020	Schedule hands-on budget assistance
Early March 2020	Panel discussion: education and evaluation/assessment (Date/Time TBD)
March 19, 2020	Revision of CAREER project description (using NSF guidelines from PAPPG and CAREER solicitation) due; minimum of 8 pages
Late March 2020	Preparing Additional Documents for NSF CAREER Proposals (Time TBD)
April 2020	In-house mock review panels of drafts scheduled (Date/Time TBD)
April 20, 2020	Full draft of project description due for consultant review (subsequent revisions scheduled in coordination with the consultant)
June 1, 2020	Date by which Department (Chair's) Letter should be requested (earlier is recommended).
June 29, 2020	Date by which Department (Chair's) Letter should be completed .
July 13, 2020	All proposal documents including final budget and justification due to SRS/R&I pre-award team
July 27, 2020	NSF Due date