

Some perspectives on NSF proposals

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Before writing

- ▶ Explore the programs, look at the explanations, understand where your expected project will fit
- ▶ If not sure or need early feedback, have a 2 page write-up and email Program Director for feedback. If you do not hear back, follow up.
- ▶ Look at award abstracts to understand if the line of research is funded.
- ▶ Look into new solicitations that are coming, which may be an opportunity.
- ▶ Understand the time commitment to write a proposal.

Writing and submission

- ▶ Be mindful about submission times, work closely with you sponsored office and chair, talk about expectations with your chair/dean clearly (summer support, course relief etc), the impact of the grant towards your tenure/promotion etc.
- ▶ Spend time on your proposal. A well written proposal makes a difference, provide sufficient evidence that it is not a “trust me” proposal. Ask someone with experience to take a look at your proposal.
- ▶ Suggest reviewers in the proposal.
- ▶ Make sure your proposal adds to both intellectual merit and broader impact, and also fits the timeline that is indicated i.e. 3 year proposal with thin research agenda, 3 year proposal with 5 year research agenda may not be received as well.
- ▶ It matters if your proposal is focused or all over the place. There should be an overall theme/umbrella that the proposal fits.

After submission

- ▶ You may or may not hear quickly on your proposal. There are many factors affecting the process. Feel free to follow up.
- ▶ If rejected, look into comments carefully. You have reviews from experts in the field.
- ▶ Revise and/or update or add new material, apply again if comments are not indicating fundamental weaknesses that cannot be addressed.
- ▶ Review for NSF (before/during/after submission, at any chance)