

NSF Broader Impacts

SP@ISU

Strengthening the Professoriate
Iowa State's Broader Impacts Resource

New Merit Review Criteria: Requirements for Proposals ¹

Project Summary will contain the following required separate statements:

- Overview of the Project
- Statement on Intellectual Merit
- Statement on Broader Impacts

Annual and Final Reports must address activities related to the Broader Impacts criterion that are not intrinsic to the research.

Grant Proposal Guide, January 2013 ²

The Project Description must contain, as a separate section within the narrative, a discussion of the broader impacts of the proposed activities. Broader impacts may be accomplished through the research itself, through the activities that are directly related to specific research projects, or through activities that are supported by, but are complementary to the project. NSF values the advancement of scientific knowledge and activities that contribute to the achievement of societally relevant outcomes:

- Full participation of women, persons with disabilities, and underrepresented minorities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)
- Improved STEM education and educator development at any level
- Increased public scientific literacy and public engagement with science and technology; improved well-being of individuals in society
- Development of a diverse, globally competitive STEM workforce
- Increased partnerships between academia, industry, and others
- Improved national security
- Increased economic competitiveness of the United States
- Enhanced infrastructure for research and education

¹National Science Foundation (2012). Fact Sheet – What this means for Proposers.
http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/merit_review/factsheets/proposers.pdf.

²National Science Foundation (2013). Grant Proposal Guide, January 2013. Chapter II.C.2d.
http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf13001/gpg_2.jsp#IIC2d.

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How Broader Impacts Will Be Reviewed ³

The Broader Impacts criterion encompasses the potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes.

The following elements should be considered in the review for Broader Impacts:

1. What is the potential for the proposed activity to benefit society or advance desired societal outcomes?
2. To what extent do the proposed activities suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts?
3. Is the plan for carrying out the proposed activities well reasoned, well organized, and based on a sound rationale? Does the plan incorporate a mechanism to assess success?
4. How well qualified is the individual, team, or organization to conduct the proposed activities?
5. Are there adequate resources available to the PI (either at the home organization or through collaborations) to carry out the proposed activities?

³National Science Foundation (2012). Grant Proposal Guide, January 2013. Chapter III.A.1-2.
http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf13001/gpg_3.jsp

Resources

Broader Impact Wizard

The Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE) based at Rutgers University developed a Broader Impact Wizard to help researchers develop a broader impact statement for NSF proposals and improve researchers' ability to communicate their science. The Broader Impact Wizard walks a researcher through five steps to come up with an engaging, interesting broader impact statement. The five steps include: audience, budget, activity, project description, and evaluation. While this wizard focuses on ocean sciences examples, the concepts are relevant to all NSF proposals. The broader impacts programs that the wizard refers to are specific to Rutgers University. For ISU programs, refer to the SP@ISU website.

COSEE NOW Broader Impact Wizard - <http://coseenow.net/wizard/>

SP@ISU Resources

SP@ISU website – www.spisu.iastate.edu

Catalog of ISU Programs that work in broader impacts areas - www.spisu.iastate.edu (Click on Programs on the left)



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