

The UNCG NSF CAREER Proposal Development Program (CPDP)

Background: The National Science Foundation (NSF) offers the Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program annually. The CAREER Program is a NSF-wide activity that offers prestigious awards in support of junior faculty who exemplify the role of teacher-scholars. For more information, see:

https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?WT.z_pims_id=503214&ods_key=nsf17537

Rationale: The CPDP is designed to assist faculty to develop a more competitive NSF CAREER proposal by the submission deadline. This program was designed based on a study of similar programs offered at other universities and then tailored to UNCG based on feedback gathered from faculty.

Design: The CPDP is a five-month program consisting of three one-hour group meetings per month. Of the three monthly meetings, one meeting will typically focus on a specific topic, while the other two meetings will be reserved for informal “writing group” sessions to share drafts and get feedback within the group. Guest experts will be invited to some sessions. A fourth open week each month will allow for make-up sessions (e.g., due to weather) or ad-hoc sessions (e.g., group call with NSF program officer) as needed. Each participant will be assigned a proposal advisor from the Proposal Development Team, with whom they will work through the iterative writing process up until the submission deadlines. The tentative schedule is listed below.

Eligibility: Tenure Track Assistant Professor (or equivalency) in an NSF relevant department.

Process: Applications must be submitted through the UNCG infoReady site (<https://uncg.infoready4.com/>) that is designed to help manage internal funding competitions. The following documents are required:

- Teacher/Scholar plan. This will be uploaded as a word doc or PDF. No more than two pages. Adhere to NSF approved fonts and formatting. Suggested content includes:
 - Proposal title and faculty name
 - When do you plan to submit a CAREER proposal?
 - Which NSF Directorate(s) might be the best fit for your CAREER proposal? (if known)
 - What do you want to study? (project description)
 - Why is this important to the academic field? (intellectual merit)
 - Why is this important beyond the academic domain? (broader impacts)
 - How will this enhance your career plans as a teacher/scholar?
- CV or Resume. No more than three pages. (specify any prior funding and prior NSF funding)
- Letter of support from your department chair

Applications will be reviewed by a panel of faculty and administrators convened by the Vice Chancellor for Research and Engagement. The panel will select up to seven faculty for the CPDP. Proposals will be evaluated with a rubric based on 1) NSF Merit review criteria (intellectual merit and broader impacts); 2) The “project description” section of the NSF CAREER program announcement; 3) Whether the individual has readiness for a CAREER proposal and is engaged in research in an area of science, engineering, or education supported by NSF.

Incentives: The University recognizes the prestige that a CAREER award brings to both the individual faculty member and their institution. The goal of this innovative program is to provide support for the development of a competitive CAREER proposal and to reward successful faculty participation. CPDP participants will receive the following:

- 1) CAREER proposal submitted to NSF - \$1000 deposited to a trust account upon successful submission. These funds to be used for research related activities by the faculty within two years of proposal submission. Although faculty may participate in subsequent re-application cycles, this is a one-time incentive.
- 2) CAREER awarded - \$4000 deposited into a trust account upon a CAREER award from NSF. These funds to be used for research related activities by the faculty within two years of the award. Each faculty may apply up to three times to CAREER, with a one-time \$4,000 deposit made upon receipt of a CAREER award.

Tentative schedule:

- Month 1: February
 - Week 1 Topic
 - Part 1: The CPDP program. (Department chair/head is strongly encouraged to attend)
 - Part 2: “The Sales Pitch: Your science, teaching, and career path” (The Project Summary)
 - Week 2 Writing group
- Month 2: March
 - Week 1 Writing group
 - Week 2 Topic - “Your integrated plan for research and education” (Outline for Project Description)
 - Week 3 Writing group
 - Week 4 Make-up session or ad-hoc request
- Month 3: April
 - Week 1 Writing group
 - Week 2 Topic - “Winning strategies for writing success” (First draft of project description)
 - Week 3 Writing group
 - Week 4 Make-up session or ad-hoc request
- Month 4: May
 - Week 1 Writing group
 - Week 2 Topic “Pieces of the Puzzle” (RAMSeS, Biosketch, Current/Pending, Facilities, Data Management, Letters, Budget, Fastlane/Research.gov)
 - Week 3 Writing group
 - Week 4 Make-up session or ad-hoc request
- Month 5: June – Revise and finalize proposal
 - Week 1 Writing group
 - Week 2 Writing group
 - Week 3 Writing group
 - Week 4 Make-up session or ad-hoc request

Submit proposal to NSF by the 3rd week of July (see CAREER solicitation for exact dates, which vary by discipline)

Questions? Contact either:

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