
NSF CAREER OVERVIEW

Office of Research

May 2009

NSF Summary

- An independent federal agency; funds approximately 20% of all federally supported research at U.S. colleges and universities
- Approximately 40% of federal awards at UCSB are from NSF
- Funds all fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
- Currently about 10,000 new awards annually; average duration of three years

Program Summary

- Foundation-wide activity
- NSF's most prestigious junior faculty awards; 425 per year
- Support early career activities that effectively integrate research and education
- Minimum funding of \$400K (\$500K for BIO awards) for five years
- Up to 20 CAREER awardees who are U.S. citizens/permanent residents will be nominated for the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE)
- UCSB has approximately 21 active awards

Eligibility

-By July deadline, PI must:

- Hold a doctoral degree in NSF-supported field
- Be untenured but employed in a tenure-track position by October 1st
- Have not previously received a NSF PECASE or CAREER award

-May submit one proposal per year

-May not submit proposals in more than 3 CAREER competitions

Program Deadlines

July 21, 2009

- Biological Sciences (BIO)
- Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE)
- Education and Human Resources (EHR)

July 22, 2009

- Engineering (ENG)

July 23, 2009

- Geosciences (GEO)
- Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS)
- Social, Behavioral, and Economic Sciences (SBE)
- Office of Polar Programs (OPP)

Proposal Preparation Resources

- Program page: http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5262
- CAREER Program FAQ: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2008/nsf08051/nsf08051.pdf>
- Contacts by Directorate: <http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/career/contacts.jsp>
- *NSF Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide* (NSF 09-29): http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguid/e/nsf09_29/nsf0929.pdf?govDel=USNSF_109
- NSF Broader Impacts Criterion: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/gpg/broaderimpacts.pdf>
- *The 2002 User-Friendly Handbook for Project Evaluation* (NSF 02-057) <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2002/nsf02057/nsf02057.pdf>
- *UCSB Postdoctoral Mentoring Guidelines*: http://research.ucsb.edu/s_p/documents/UCSB_Postdoc_Mentoringfinal3.04.09.pdf.
- NSF Fastlane <http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov>

Proposal Components

- Cover Sheet
 - Unit of Consideration
 - Eligibility Certification
- Project Summary (1 page)
 - Self-contained summary
 - State intellectual merit and broader impacts
- Project Description (≤ 15 pages)
 - Integrated research/education activities
- References Cited
- Biographical Sketch (≤ 2 pages)
- Supplementary Documentation
 - Department Chair Letter
 - Letters of Collaboration
 - Letters of Recommendation are not permitted
- Budget and Budget Justification (≤ 3 pages)
- Current and Pending Support
- Facilities/Equipment/Other Resources

