**Synopsis of Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER)**

**Updated 2024.05.01**

**Full Proposal Deadline** (due by 5 p.m. submitter's local time): **Fourth Wednesday in July**

Please see the [NSF CAREER webpage](https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=503214) for a link to the most current funding announcement and FAQs, both of which will give additional detail on the program requirements. See Required Elements section for checklists and summaries of requirements.

For a checklist of all CAREER and PAPPG requirements, please see [NSF CAREER Proposal Submission Review Checklist - Research.gov](https://www.colorado.edu/ocg/node/1949/attachment).

**Submission Limits**

An eligible Principal Investigator may submit only one CAREER proposal per annual competition. Additionally, a Principal Investigator may not participate in more than three CAREER competitions. Proposals that are not reviewed (i.e., are withdrawn before review or are returned without review) do not count toward the three-competition limit.

**Eligibility**

To be eligible to apply for a CAREER award, investigators must at the time of the annual deadline:

* Hold a doctoral degree in a field supported by NSF;
* Be engaged in research in an area of science, engineering, or education supported by NSF;
* Hold at least a 50% tenure-track (or tenure-track-equivalent) position as an assistant professor (or equivalent title);
* Be untenured; and
* Have not previously received a CAREER award. (Prior or concurrent Federal support for other types of awards for non-duplicative research does not preclude eligibility.)

Tenure-Track Equivalency - For a position to be considered a tenure-track-equivalent position, it must meet all of the following requirements: (1) the employee has a continuing appointment that is expected to last the five years of a CAREER grant; (2) the appointment has substantial research and educational responsibilities; and (3) the proposed project relates to the employee's career goals and job responsibilities as well as to the mission of the department or organization. As stated in the Proposal Preparation Instructions, for non-tenure-track faculty, the Departmental Letter must affirm that the investigator's appointment is at an early-career level equivalent to pre-tenure status, and must clearly and convincingly demonstrate how the faculty member's appointment satisfies all the above requirements of tenure-track equivalency.

Faculty members who are Associate Professors or in equivalent appointments, with or without tenure, **are not** eligible for the CAREER program. Faculty members who hold Adjunct Faculty or equivalent appointments are not eligible for the CAREER program

**Deciding on the appropriate program**

CAREER looks different across the NSF programs. Please contact the Program Officer for the area you are interested in to see if your work is appropriate for their program.

**Budget**

The CAREER award, including indirect costs, is expected to total a minimum of $400,000 for the 5-year duration, with the following exceptions: Awards for proposals to the Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO), the Directorate for Engineering (ENG), or the Office of Polar Programs (OPP) are expected to total a minimum of $500,000 for the 5-year duration. Please discuss with the relevant Program Officer what is expected for the budget cap (the ceiling and the floor are often the same).

**Other Restrictions**

* No co-PIs are permitted.
* CAREER proposals may not duplicate (or be substantially similar to) proposals already under consideration by NSF from the same investigator. In other words, your CAREER proposal must be substantially distinct from any other proposal awarded or under consideration by NSF.
* No appendices are permitted.

**Requirements in addition to the PAPPG**

* Departmental Letter
* Project Description includes: a description of the proposed educational activities and their intended impact; a description of how the research and educational activities are integrated or synergistic; a description of other broader impacts, besides the education activities, that will accrue from the project;
* PECASE eligibility statement if applicant wishes to be considered for PECASE