

**National Science Foundation  
Research Experience for  
Undergraduates (REU) Program**

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# Review Criteria (NSF)

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- Intellectual Merit
- Broader Impact
- Project summary must have a distinct paragraph on each – proposal must clearly address each
- Reviewers must specifically evaluate each (separate sections on reviewer's form)

# Components of an NSF Proposal

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- Project Summary (1 page)
- Project Description (15 pages)
- Literature References
- Biographical Sketch (2 pages)
- Budget and Justification
- Current and Pending Support
- Facilities and Equipment

# NSF Research Grants

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- Culture of the different divisions at NSF
- Interdisciplinary projects can provide opportunities as well as challenges

# Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)

- A research program – not curriculum
  - Publications/external funding – not much room for research descriptions so biographical information and current/pending support crucial
  - Not enough to just involve students in the work
  - Need high quality mentors with strong programs
- Provides added value to research program that is already strong (although may be division-dependent)

# Follow-through on Research

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- If there is a way to continue the work beyond the summer – will strengthen the request
  - Faculty participants from other institutions
  - Students continue collaboration (may be easier at PUI since half of participants can be from the home campus)

# Theme?

- Divisions may have different views on this – especially for PUIs
- Needs to be authentic – should build on existing expertise and not an “invented” theme
- Needs to lead to publication – in chemistry, measuring pollutants in a nearby stream likely won't be enough

# Student Participants

- PUIs – usually half on-campus, half students from other institutions
- Describe selection process/criteria
- Desire to serve students who would not otherwise have a chance to participate in research
- Desire to serve underrepresented minorities
  - Can't just say that will have 50% of participants from minority groups without showing established links – perfunctory letters of support are not enough



# Professional Development

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- Group of students must interact and not simply be dispersed into individual labs
- Orientation
- Meetings/presentations/workshops
- Closing poster session
- Social activities over summer
- Reunion at professional meeting

# Evaluation

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- Outcomes
  - Publications
  - Attendance at graduate school
  - Demographics
- Means of measuring student growth/satisfaction with program
  - Exit survey
- May want external assessment expert