**CAREER Proposal Components Overview** [**(22-586)**](https://new.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/faculty-early-career-development-program-career)

**Quick Link to NSF Policy Guide Current NSF Policy Guide** [**(24-1)**](https://new.nsf.gov/policies/pappg/24-1)

1. Proposal Cover Sheet (populated in Research.gov based on PI info)
2. Table of Contents (populated in Research.gov)
3. Project Summary (one page)
   1. Brief overview of research and education objectives, approach, and anticipated results
   2. Intellectual Merit – what is the scientific impact?
   3. Broader Impacts – what is the societal impact?
4. Project Description (15 pages maximum)
   1. Introduction

* What is the problem? Why do you want to solve it? Why now? Why does it matter?
* Specific **research and education goals and objectives** for this proposal
  1. Relationship of your proposed project to the present state of knowledge
     + Demonstrate that you are familiar with all past and current important work in the field.
     + What are the gaps?
  2. Impact of proposed research and education activities
     + Intellectual Merit – benefits to science
       1. How will your work fit into or contribute to the established field of knowledge?
       2. How is it unique and innovative
       3. How will it fill the “gaps” you identified?
     + Broader Impacts – benefits to society
       1. How will your work solve recognized problems?
       2. Does it create new and/or useful knowledge?
       3. Does it create a model that is replicable and/or transferable?
       4. Does it improve upon existing techniques or lay a foundation for new technology that benefits society?
  3. Proposed approach/methods (for research and education objectives) and significance of expected results
     + Plan for research activities
       1. Timeline, milestones, roles & responsibilities
       2. Evaluation of educational progress and impact
     + Plan for education activities
       1. Timeline, milestones, roles & responsibilities
       2. Evaluation of educational progress and impact
  4. Integration of research and education
  5. Results of prior NSF support (if applicable)
  6. Relation to PI’s career goals, job responsibilities, and institutional goals
     + Summary of prior research and educational accomplishments

1. References (no page limit)
2. Personnel Documents (only 1 PI allowed; no co-Is)
   1. Biographical sketch – SciENcv ONLY ([How To & Policy](https://new.nsf.gov/funding/senior-personnel-documents))
   2. Current and Pending Support [(policy and current form)](https://new.nsf.gov/funding/senior-personnel-documents#current-and-pending-other-support-5db)
   3. Collaborators and Other Affiliations [(policy and current template)](https://new.nsf.gov/funding/senior-personnel-documents#collaborators-and-other-affiliations-2b3)
3. Budget and Budget justification [(quick link to NSF budget guidance)](https://new.nsf.gov/funding/proposal-budget)
   1. Budget for 5 years; minimum $400-$500K depending on directorate
   2. justification max 5 pages (\*NSF normally allows 3, but CAREER allows extra)
4. Facilities, Equipment, and Other Resources (no limit but use judiciously.)
5. Supplemental documents
   1. Departmental letter of support (2-page max; required to include the following:)
      * Statement verifying the eligibility of the PI for CAREER;
      * There is a synergistic relationship between the proposed CAREER goals and the job responsibilities and career goals of the PI;
      * Statement that PI’s activities are supported by and integrated into the education and research goals of the department
   2. Letters of collaboration (must use NSF template; if applicable and within guidelines for collaboration, not endorsement)
   3. Post-doc mentoring plan (1 page max; if applicable – required if PostDoc is budgeted)   
      [(How To)](https://new.nsf.gov/science-matters/nsf-101-postdoctoral-mentoring-plan)
   4. Data Management Plan (2 pages max) ([How To & Policy)](https://new.nsf.gov/funding/data-management-plan)