

NEWS

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Announcements

SGCOE Colloquium Meeting Next Week

Date: Tuesday, September 26, 2023

Time: 12:00 pm-1:00 pm

Location: 3rd Floor Grand Hall | Brown-Kopel

Mark your calendars for our next SGCOE colloquium next Tuesday, September 26! The agenda for this meeting will include introductions from **Dr. Yadrianna Acosta-Sojo** (Industrial and Systems Engineering) and **Dr. Matthew Yarnold** (Civil Engineering), as well as an overview of the Interdisciplinary Center for Advanced Manufacturing Systems (ICAMS) by **Dr. Greg Purdy** (Industrial and Systems Engineering). Lunch is provided for attendees.

Hanover Research Graduate Fellowships Webinar

Date: Monday, October 2, 2023

Time: 12:00 pm-1:00 pm

Please access the Zoom through [this link](#)

This webinar by Hanover Research will guide graduate engineering students in funding their futures in research. Objectives of the presentation will answer questions such as:

- What can a fellowship do for me?
- How do I navigate the grant application process?
- What are the essentials of competitive proposals?
- What other funding opportunities and resources exist?

Funding Opportunities

U.S. Army ERDC Broad Agency Announcement

Due: January 1, 2024

Department of the Army Corps of Engineers

The U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center has issued a BAA for various research and development topic areas: hydraulics, dredging, coastal engineering, instrumentation, oceanography, remote sensing, geotechnical engineering, earthquake engineering, soil effects, vehicle mobility, self-contained munitions, military engineering, geophysics, pavements, protective structures, aquatic plants, water quality, dredged material, treatment of hazardous waste, wetlands, physical/mechanical/chemical properties of snow and other frozen precipitation, infrastructure and environmental issues for installations, computer science, telecommunications management, energy, facilities maintenance, materials and structures, engineering processes, environmental processes, land and heritage conservation, and ecological processes. Read more about this opportunity [here](#).

Engineering Design and Systems Engineering (EDSE)

Due: Full proposals accepted anytime

National Science Foundation

Areas of interest: design for manufacturing, assistive technology, infrastructure systems, communication/power/control systems

This program calls for research that advances design science and systems science through the creation of engineered artifacts such as devices, products, processes, materials, and systems. Multidisciplinary proposals that include collaboration with experts in areas such as social, behavioral, computational, and natural sciences are encouraged. The EDSE program particularly supports areas such as design representation and optimization, AI in design, design in extreme environments, and robotics/intelligent system design. Read more about this opportunity [here](#).

Using ChatGPT When Writing Proposals

Adapted from the [Research Development & Grant Writing News, August 2023](#)

ChatGPT uses generative AI to perform a variety of writing tasks for a variety of purposes. But can it help write a grant proposal? Like any tool, it can be useful but must be used correctly and is not without its limitations.

When writing a research grant proposal, an investigator must communicate **original ideas** to the funding agency. An investigator must also explain the current state of the art and describe how the proposed research will address specific gaps or issues within that field. Since these ideas must come directly from the investigator, ChatGPT is limited because it can only produce information that already exists. Furthermore, an investigator must explain the **rationale** behind the research by putting all the pieces of the project (goals, hypotheses, aims, preliminary results, methods, expected outcomes, and eventual impact) together. While ChatGPT can *attempt* to create the appearance of logical lines of reasoning, it often writes nonsensical and even comical explanations instead.

In short, ChatGPT cannot write an entire or even part of a grant proposal for you. However, as long as you pay attention to the results you receive, it can help in the following ways:

- Use it to produce clearer or more accessible text by asking it to rewrite wordy or confusing sentences. Remember to check for accuracy though!
- Use it as a thesaurus to request synonyms or antonyms for a word or phrase. Continue to adjust the prompt until it helps you place the idea you were looking for.
- Use it to survey a field for the most common usage of a term, which it can do with ease by surveying an entire body of literature.
- Use it to understand what someone else wrote--especially helpful in interdisciplinary teams!

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