NEWS
ENGINEERING RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION
AUBURN UNIVERSITY
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Announcements

Faculty Research Colloquium

The next **Faculty Research Colloquium** will take place on **Tuesday, August 26**, at **12:00 PM** in the **Brown-Kopel Grand Hall**. Dr. Sushil Adhikari, Associate Dean for Research in the College of Agriculture, will be the featured speaker. This is a great opportunity to explore current research and connect with colleagues across campus.

Funding Opportunities

Process Systems, Reaction Engineering, and Molecular Thermodynamics

National Science Foundation (NSF)
Proposals Due: You can apply for this opportunity at any time.
Areas of Interest: polymeric materials, unit operations engineering, high temperature chemistry, process design, optimization, sustainable chemical manufacturing, and process simulation and control.

NSF calls for proposals exploring innovative solutions in chemical process engineering. Research areas may include chemical reaction engineering, process design, optimization and control, reactive polymer processing, and molecular thermodynamics

The program promotes progress in advanced optimization and control algorithms for chemical processes, molecular processes, multi-scale modeling of complex chemical systems, and the application of these mechanisms into the design of chemical manufacturing processes. Proposals are encouraged to implement a focus on the development of energy-efficient and environmentally safe chemical processes and materials.

National Science Foundation Translation to Practice (NSF TTP)

Biological Technologies (BTO), Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), United States Department of Defense (DOD)

Proposals Due: September 10, 2025
Areas of Interest: AI and machine learning, human performance, novel materials and sensors, environmental ecosystems, biosecurity, and biomedical defense, aiming to improve warfighter resilience and threat detection.

The **U.S. National Science Foundation's Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (NSF TTP)** collaborates with key economic sectors to advance three core priorities: **(1)** expediting the translation and development of emerging technologies, **(2)** promoting regional innovation and driving economic growth, and **(3)** preparing the American workforce for high-wage, future-oriented careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

By translating recent scientific and engineering discoveries into reliable solutions that drive national progress, the NSF TTP program aims to strengthen connections and promote joint initiatives between academic institutions and external partners across major economic sectors. The program offers three separate tracks for projects at different stages of development. Applicants may apply to a pilot track, NSF **TTP-Explore (NSF TTP-E),** or more advanced tracks such as **NSF TTP-Translate (NSF TTP-T)** and **NSF TTP-Partner (NSF TTP-P).**

Interested in this opportunity? Read more about this funding opportunity here.

Supplements to Your NSF Award

What is Supplemental Funding for Existing NSF Awards?
Supplemental funding is additional money you can request to support your ongoing NSF-funded project. It helps you expand research activities, add personnel, purchase equipment, or support outreach efforts without submitting a new proposal.

When to Request Supplemental Funding

You should consider requesting supplemental funding when:

New opportunities arise that expand your original research scope. For example, a promising new collaboration or an unexpected research direction that fits within your award's objectives.

You identify a critical need for additional resources such as specialized equipment, personnel, or materials that weren't part of your initial budget.

There's a chance to enhance broader impacts, like hosting a workshop, conference, or community outreach event connected to your project.

You have a clear plan to increase the impact or productivity of your research without changing the original project's goals drastically.

How to Request A Supplemental Funding Award

1. Check your award's terms: Some awards explicitly allow supplements; others do not.

2. Contact your NSF Program Officer: This is a crucial step. Discuss your ideas and ensure your proposed supplement aligns with NSF's goals and priorities.

3. Prepare a Supplement Proposal: This typically includes a brief project description, justification for the supplement, budget details, and how it enhances the original award.

4. Submit the proposal through the **NSF FastLane** or **Research.gov** portal following NSF's guidelines.

Why You Need to Check with Your Program Officer:
Program Officers provide guidance on whether your project qualifies for a supplement, they offer advice on proposal content, and can sometimes influence the review process. Early communication helps avoid wasted effort and increases your chances of success.

For more information on **supplemental funding,** please visit **NSF** by clicking here.

NSF Award Management Tips

Successfully managing your NSF award is key to maximizing its impact, ensuring efficient use of resources, and maintaining full compliance with all funding requirements and guidelines. Effective management not only helps in avoiding common pitfalls but also positions your project for potential future funding opportunities and supplements. Here are some essential tips to help you stay organized, meet deadlines, and navigate the complexities of NSF award administration.

1. Understand Award Terms and Conditions

The current **National Science Foundation (NSF) Grant General Conditions (GC-1)** outline a comprehensive framework of **61 distinct award procedures** that all award recipients are expected to thoroughly understand and adhere to. These conditions are designed to ensure the proper administration, oversight, and accountability of NSF-funded projects. The procedures encompass a wide range of administrative, financial, and reporting obligations. Among these, key areas include, but are not limited to: **Equipment, Project Reporting Requirements, Reporting Subawards and Executive Compensation, Reporting Classifiable Information, and Liability.**

As a whole, these conditions serve as the operational backbone for NSF grants, helping to uphold the integrity and effectiveness of federally funded research. Awardees are strongly encouraged to review the GC-1 in its entirety to ensure full compliance and avoid potential administrative or financial penalties.

Click here to view **GC-1**.

2. Develop and Monitor Your Budget

While PIs aren't responsible for managing the accounting system, your awareness and involvement in budget monitoring are key to keeping the project on track. A well-developed budget—aligned with the project scope—helps your institution's accounting team meet NSF's requirements for tracking, reporting, and compliance.

Regularly reviewing your project's spending and communicating any changes (e.g., scope shifts, reallocation needs, delays) helps ensure expenses align with your approved budget and timelines. This reduces administrative burden, prevents compliance issues, and supports smooth reporting and reimbursement processes.

3. Plan Ahead for Supplements and Extensions

Proactive planning is essential when considering supplements or extensions to an NSF award. While both options are designed to provide additional support or flexibility during a project's lifecycle, they are not guaranteed and must be approached with appropriate lead time and justification.

Supplements may be requested when additional funding is needed to expand the scope of work, support student involvement, or respond to unforeseen research opportunities. These requests must clearly

articulate the need for additional resources, demonstrate alignment with the original objectives of the award, and comply with NSF's guidelines for allowable costs. It is advisable to engage with the cognizant NSF program officer early in the process to determine whether a supplement is appropriate and to understand any specific requirements or limitations.

Adapted from Chapter VI: NSF Proposal and Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) (NSF 24-1)