

NEWS

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College of Engineering

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Announcements

Are You Working on a DOE Proposal?

If you are planning on submitting a proposal to the Department of Energy in the next month, please notify ERAD staff as soon as possible, due to changing policies from the Department of Energy regarding proposals and grants.

Considering a Postdoc? Attend a Virtual Panel Discussion

Graduate students who are considering a postdoctoral position after graduation and are curious about what a postdoc involves are invited to attend a virtual panel via ZOOM on April 25, 2025, for a discussion where current postdocs will share their journeys, research experiences, and insights on transitioning into postdoctoral roles.

Session #1 - 9:30am - 10:30am

Session #2 - 1:30pm - 2:30pm

RSVP [Jennifer Kerpelman](#) to indicate preferred session and receive Zoom link.

Funding Opportunities

Measurement Science and Engineering (MSE)

National Science Foundation (NSF)

Proposals Accepted Anytime

Areas of Interest: Electricity Generation, Electric Power Systems and Transmission, Intelligent Agents or Systems, Renewable Energy, Robotics, Solar Energy, Transportation Engineering, Wind Power

The Energy, Power, Control, and Networks (EPCN) program supports innovative research in modeling, optimization, learning, adaptation and control of networked multi-agent systems, a higher-level decision making, and dynamic resource allocation and risk management. EPCN's goal is to encourage research on

emerging technologies and applications including energy, transportation, robotics, and biomedical devices and systems.

Areas of interest include:

- **Control Systems:** Distributed Control and Optimization, Networked Multi-Agent Systems, Stochastic, Hybrid, Nonlinear Systems, Dynamic Data-Enabled Learning, Decision and Control, and Cyber-Physical Control Systems
- **Energy and Power Systems:** Solar, Wind, and Storage Devices Integration with the Grid, Monitoring, Protection and Resilient Operation of Grid, Power Grid Cybersecurity, Energy Efficient Buildings and Communities, and Microgrids
- **Power Electronics Systems:** Advanced Power Electronics and Electric Machines, Electric and Hybrid Electric Vehicles, Energy Harvesting, Storage Devices and Systems, and Innovative Grid-tied Power Electronic Converters
- **Learning and Adaptive Systems:** Neural Networks, Neuromorphic Engineering Systems, Data analytics and Intelligent Systems, and Machine Learning Algorithms, Analysis and Applications

Read more about this funding opportunity [here](#).

Environmental Engineering

National Science Foundation (NSF)

Proposals Accepted Anytime

Areas of Interest: Agriculture and Food Sciences, Energy Conservation, Environmental Engineering, Natural and Physical Sciences, Mathematics and Technology, Soil Conservation

The Environmental Engineering program supports fundamental research focused on reducing pollution and its environmental and human impacts through closing resource loops, smart amendments, environmental manipulation, or remediation with engineered processes. The goal of the Environmental Engineering program is to support potentially transformative fundamental research that applies scientific and engineered principles to prevent or reduce pollutive discharge into the environment, mitigate ecological and human health impacts of already released pollution, and remediate polluted environments.

Major areas of interest include:

- **Building a future without pollution or waste:** new technologies to extract resources from waste streams to close the resource loop
- **Sustainable supply and protection of water:** investigation of innovative biogeochemical processes that remove, biologically or chemically transform, and/or prevent the release of contaminants in surface and groundwater
- **Environmental chemistry, fate, and transport of nutrients and contaminants of emerging concern in air, water, soils, and sediments**
- **Environmental engineering of the built environment:** research to understand the biogeochemical reactivity of the built environment, improving outdoor and indoor air quality, and bridge gaps between data and predictions

Read more about this funding opportunity [here](#).

Research Focus

What to do about your NSF CAREER application?

Funding is somewhat unpredictable, especially with the recent administrative changes, which can make strategic proposal decisions difficult. If you are considering applying for an NSF CAREER grant, you may be wondering whether or not you should apply this year. To be eligible, PIs must be Assistant Professors (or equivalent), tenure track (or equivalent), untenured, and proposing to conduct research of interest to NSF. In addition, PIs are allowed to apply only three times during that period of eligibility.

While there is no correct answer to whether you should apply this year or not, here are some things to take into consideration in making your decision:

How many years of eligibility do you have left, and how many of your three tries do you have left?

Remember, you must be untenured as of the CAREER proposal due date. It is important to calculate how many more years of eligibility you have remaining. If this is your last year of eligibility, that may help you decide to submit. But if you have two years of eligibility and only one try left, then you can submit it this year or next year.

Can you write a strong NSF CAREER proposal this year? If you have concerns about writing a strong 5-year plan, gathering preliminary results, publishing the topic of your career project, or addressing reviewers' concerns. This may be a good year to better position yourself for applying again in the future, especially if you have several more years of eligibility. On the other hand, if you are in a great position and excited about your proposal topics, your topic might not be so novel by next year, so go ahead and submit.

What is your program officer saying? If your core program appears to be in disarray due to lay-offs, and you are not able to get in contact with your P.O., it might be best to wait a year if your eligibility will not end this year. This is especially true if you are new to the program and have several tries left.

There is a level of unpredictability to this process. Many variables can impact your chances of receiving the CAREER grant. NSF is likely to receive large budget cuts, which will likely affect the budget for CAREER grants, but many PIs may decide not to apply this year, making this round less competitive.

Keep an eye out for any new developments and a new solicitation. There may be some modifications to the requirements regarding the education plan due to the current administration's discouragement against DEI.

Focus on what you can control. There is so much unknown that it is impossible to know if you should or should not apply for the CAREER grant this year. It's better for you, and likely for your eventual success, to focus on your research and education ideas and your ability to develop a CAREER proposal that you're proud of.

Faculty interested in assistance with their CAREER grant can reach out to Kelley Terry for assistance with graphics, proof reading, or a review/revision with the Hanover Research Services.

Adapted from the March edition of the Research Development and Grant Writing Newsletter

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