

Welcome to the NSF PI Experience Survey

The division of Evaluation and Assessment Capacity (EAC) at NSF sponsors this survey which focuses on principal investigator experiences preparing and submitting proposals to the National Science Foundation (NSF). Your participation and feedback will help NSF continue to improve the merit review process.

This survey should take about 15 minutes to complete. Your responses will be captured and saved as they are entered. You may exit the survey at any time, and all your previous responses will be retained. When you return, you will start back up at the point at which you left. Any responses entered may be used for analysis regardless of completion status.

Note: Do not use your browser "back" button while taking this survey, as it may result in the loss of your responses. Instead, use the blue navigation arrows that appear at the bottom of the survey page.

Your participation is voluntary but critical to the success of NSF improvement efforts. Your decision to participate or not to participate in this survey will not adversely affect consideration of your pending or future proposals. The information you provide will be used for statistical purposes. Your responses will be kept strictly confidential and are subject to safeguards as provided by the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. § 552a).

OMB Number: xxxx-xxxx

Expiration Date: xx/xx/xxxx

Survey Instrument

Section 1: Preliminaries

[auto fill X values from pre-loaded data]

Q1. Our records show that you submitted the proposal entitled X to X program solicitation on X date—henceforth referred to as *your current proposal submission*. Is this correct?

- A. Yes **1**
- B. No **2**

If yes, continue to Q2.

If no, then send respondent to technical assistance and resolve promptly.

Section 2: Current proposal submission

[Programming: Numeric; allow decimals]

[Programming: Pre-populate with "0"]

Q2. Thinking about the time **before** you became aware of the program solicitation to which you submitted, please estimate the amount of time you engaged in the following activities on your current proposal submission. For no days, enter 0. For partial days, enter decimals (e.g., 0.5 for half a day).

Activity	Estimated length of time in number of days
Reviewing literature, performing exploratory analysis, or conducting preliminary experiments in the preparation of your current proposal submission.	
Working with collaborators within your institution in the preparation of your current proposal submission.	
Working with collaborators beyond your institution in the preparation of your current proposal submission.	
Engaging or communicating with NSF Program Officers or NSF personnel.	
Reading or reviewing NSF's Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide.	
Preparing the project description and project summary aspects of your current proposal submission.	
Preparing aspects of the proposal other than the project description or project summary (e.g., budget, current and pending support, facilities, etc.) of your current proposal submission.	
Proofreading or editing your current proposal submission.	
Engaging with grant-related services (such as department grant supporting staff, Sponsored Research Office (SRO), or third-party grant preparation services), either within or beyond your institution in the preparation of your current proposal submission.	

[Programming: Numeric; allow decimals]

[Programming: Pre-populate with "0"]

Q3. Thinking about the time **after** you became aware of the program solicitation to which you submitted, please estimate the amount of time you engaged in the following activities on your current proposal submission. For no days, enter 0. For partial days, enter decimals (e.g., 0.5 for half a day).

Activity	Estimated length of time in number of days
Reviewing literature, performing exploratory analysis, or conducting preliminary experiments in the preparation of your current proposal submission.	
Working with collaborators within your institution in the preparation of your current proposal submission.	
Working with collaborators beyond your institution in the preparation of your current proposal submission.	
Engaging or communicating with NSF Program Officers or NSF personnel.	
Reading or reviewing NSF's Proposal and Award Policies and Procedures Guide.	
Preparing the project description and project summary aspects of your current proposal submission.	
Preparing aspects of the proposal other than the project description or project summary (e.g., budget, current/pending support, facilities, etc.) of your current proposal submission.	
Proofreading or editing your current proposal submission.	
Engaging with grant-related services (such as department grant supporting staff, Sponsored Research Office (SRO), or third-party grant preparation services), either within or beyond your institution in the preparation of your current proposal submission.	

Q4. For your current proposal submission, how much time did your proposal spend in internal routing prior to submission by your organization?

- ☐ 0 to 7 days 1
- ☐ 1 to 2 weeks 2
- ☐ 3 to 4 weeks 3
- ☐ 4 weeks or more 4
- ☐ I don't know 5

Q5. For your current proposal submission, how much lead time was needed by your Sponsored Research Office (SRO) or equivalent office to submit a proposal?

- ☐ 0 to 7 days 1
- ☐ 1 to 2 weeks 2
- ☐ 3 to 4 weeks 3
- ☐ 4 weeks or more 4
- ☐ I don't know 5

Q6. For your current proposal submission, did you have a named collaborator (co-PI, subaward, collaborative award, collaborator letter, etc.)?

- ☐ Yes 1
- ☐ No 2

If Q6 is yes, then ask:

Q6a. For your current proposal submission, what best describes the named collaborator(s) (co-PI, subaward, collaborative award, collaborator letter, etc.)? (check all that apply)

- ☐ A colleague at my institution in my department 1
- ☐ A colleague at my institution in a different department 2
- ☐ A colleague at a different academic institution 3
- ☐ A colleague at a different non-academic institution 4

After, continue to Q7.

If Q6 is no, then ask:

Q6b. For your current proposal submission, did you seek a named collaborator (co-PI, subaward, collaborative award, collaborator letter, etc.)?

- ☐ Yes 1
- ☐ No 2

If Q6b is no, then continue to Q7.

If Q6b is yes, then ask:

Q6c. In the space provided, briefly explain the barrier(s) of developing a collaboration and/or including a named collaborator (co-PI, subaward, collaborative award, collaborator letter, etc.) on your current proposal submission?

- Free text

After, continue to Q7.

Q7. Is this your first proposal submission at NSF?

- ☐ Yes **1**
- ☐ No **2**

If Q7 is yes, then go to Q8.

If Q7 is no, then ask:

Q7a. Approximately how many proposals (including this one) have you submitted to NSF in the past 10 years?

- ☐ 1 to 5 **1**
- ☐ 6 to 10 **2**
- ☐ 11 to 15 **3**
- ☐ 16 to 20 **4**
- ☐ 21 to 25 **5**
- ☐ 26 to 30 **6**
- ☐ More than 30 **7**

Q8. Is this your first proposal submission to the Division of Chemistry (CHE) at NSF?

- ☐ Yes **1**
- ☐ No **2**

If Q8 is yes, then go to 9.

If Q8 is no, then ask:

[Programming: Program response options to be ≤ to Q7a]

Q8a. Approximately how many proposals (including this one) have you submitted to the Division of Chemistry (CHE) at NSF in the past 10 years?

- ☐ 1 to 5 **1**
- ☐ 6 to 10 **2**
- ☐ 11 to 15 **3**
- ☐ 16 to 20 **4**
- ☐ 21 to 25 **5**
- ☐ 26 to 30 **6**
- ☐ More than 30 **7**

Q9. In the past 10 years, which program areas within the Division of Chemistry (CHE) at NSF have you submitted a proposal (including this one) (check all that apply).

- ☐ Chemical Catalysis (CAT) 1
- ☐ Chemical Measurement and Imaging (CMI) 2
- ☐ Chemical Structure, Dynamics, and Mechanisms-A (CSDM-A) 3
- ☐ Chemical Structure, Dynamics, and Mechanisms-B (CSDM-B) 4
- ☐ Chemical Synthesis (SYN) 5
- ☐ Chemical Theory, Models and Computational Methods (CTMC) 6
- ☐ Chemistry of Life Processes (CLP) 7
- ☐ Environmental Chemical Sciences (ECS) 8
- ☐ Macromolecular, Supramolecular and Nanochemistry (MSN) 9
- ☐ I don't recall 10

If Q7 is no, then ask:

[Programming: Program response options to be \leq to Q7a]

Q10. In the past 10 years, approximately how many grant proposals have you been awarded from NSF?

- ☐ 1 to 5 1
- ☐ 6 to 10 2
- ☐ 11 to 15 3
- ☐ 16 to 20 4
- ☐ 21 to 25 5
- ☐ 26 to 30 6
- ☐ More than 30 7

If Q7 is no, then ask:

Q11. In the past year, have you submitted a proposal to NSF that was declined?

- ☐ Yes 1
- ☐ No 2

If Q11 is yes, then ask:

Q11a. To what extent did the feedback received from your declined proposal help improve your current proposal submission?

- ☐ Not Important at All 0
- ☐ Of Little Importance 1
- ☐ Of Average Importance 2
- ☐ Very Important 3
- ☐ Absolutely Essential 4

Section 3: Institutional Characteristics

Q12. Do you currently work for an institution of higher education? If you currently work for multiple organizations, please pick the one you consider to be your primary employer and answer in terms of that organization.

- ☐ Yes **1**
- ☐ No **2**

If Q12 is yes, then ask:

Q12a. What is your position?

- ☐ Post-doctoral fellow **1**
- ☐ Lecturer / Senior Lecturer **2**
- ☐ Assistant Professor (tenure tracked faculty) **3**
- ☐ Assistant Professor (non-tenure tracked faculty) **4**
- ☐ Associate Professor **5**
- ☐ Full Professor **6**
- ☐ Research Faculty or Scientist **7**
- ☐ Adjunct Faculty **8**
- ☐ Emeritus/Emerita Professor **9**
- ☐ Retired **10**
- ☐ Other (please specify): **11** [... Text box ...]

Q12aa. In the prior academic year from the fall 2021 term and until the end of the summer 2022 term(s), what was the total number of classes or sections you taught at your current institution? Do not include individualized instruction, such as independent study or individual performance classes. Count multiple sections of the same course as a separate class, but not the lab section of a course.

0. No classes taught

_____ Number of classes

Q12aaa. In the current academic year from the fall 2022 term and until the end of the summer 2023 term(s), what is the total number of classes or sections you teach at your current institution? Do not include individualized instruction, such as independent study or individual performance classes. Count multiple sections of the same course as a separate class, but not the lab section of a course.

0. No classes taught

_____ Number of classes

Q12b. Which of the following best describes your institution?

- ☐ Public academic institution 1
- ☐ Private academic institution 2
- ☐ Non-profit organization 3
- ☐ Other (please specify) 4

If Q12b is 1 or 2, then ask:

Q12c. To the best of your knowledge, is your institution an accredited academic institution whose enrollment of a single minority or a combination of minorities exceeds fifty percent of the total enrollment, including graduate and undergraduate and full- and part-time students.

- ☐ Yes 1
- ☐ No 2
- ☐ I don't know 3

If Q12b is 3 or 4, then ask:

Q12d. Does your department have a PhD-granting graduate program?

- ☐ Yes 1
- ☐ No 2
- ☐ I don't know 3

Q13. Is the receipt of funding from grant proposals a component of your annual performance or promotion review in your current job?

- ☐ Yes 1
- ☐ No 2
- ☐ I don't know 3

Q14. In your current job, does your office or department have dedicated grant preparation personnel?

- ☐ Yes 1
- ☐ No 2
- ☐ I don't know 3

If Q14 is yes, then ask:

Q14a. Overall, how often do you engage with your dedicated grant-preparation personnel?

- ☐ Never 1
- ☐ Very Rarely 2
- ☐ Rarely 3
- ☐ Occasionally 4
- ☐ Frequently 5
- ☐ Very Frequently 6

If Q14 is not yes, then go to End.

[SECTION: END]

You have reached the end of the survey.

If you wish to modify any of your responses, click the back arrow below. Otherwise, please click the forward button.

Thank You

Thank you for completing the survey!