**This outline provides a suggested format for your proposal, but you are not required by NSF to use this format.**

*Page limit: 15 pages, see* [*NSF PAPPG: Format of the Proposal*](https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappg17_1/pappg_2.jsp#IIB) *for font/formatting requirements*

*Solicitation link:* [*NSF 17-537*](https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2017/nsf17537/nsf17537.htm)

**I**. Introduction

**II.** Research Program

1. Preliminary supporting data (if applicable)
2. Objectives
3. Methods
4. Significance

* Document here: “the need for and nature of collaborations, such as intellectual contributions to the project, permission to access a site, an instrument, or a facility, offer of samples and materials for research, logistical support to the research and education program, or mentoring of U.S. students at a foreign site.”

**III.** Proposed educational activities and evaluation plan

1. Educational activities
   * Can be directed towards “*K-12 students, undergraduates, graduate students, and/or the general public*”
   * *“Proposers may build on, or otherwise meaningfully participate in, existing NSF-supported activities or other educational projects ongoing on campus.”*
   * Other activities: *“NSF recognizes that some investigators, given their individual disciplinary and career interests, may wish to pursue an additional activity such as entrepreneurship, industry partnerships, or policy that enhances their research and education plans. Proposers are encouraged to communicate with the CAREER contact or cognizant Program Officer in the Division closest to their area of research to discuss the expectations and approaches that are most appropriate for that area (see* [*NSF Contacts*](http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/career/contacts.jsp) *for a list of CAREER contacts by division).”*
   * What criteria will you use to assess how educational goals will be met?
2. Evaluation plan
   * Evaluation is key: “*Principal investigators are strongly encouraged to describe how the impact of the educational activities will be assessed or evaluated. A helpful document for information on evaluating educational activities is the NSF publication* The 2002 User-Friendly Handbook for Project Evaluation ([NSF 02-057](http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf02057)).”
   * Consider using the Program Evaluation Group at UGA. Contact: Karen DeMeester, [karend@uga.edu](mailto:karend@uga.edu)

**IV.** Integration of research and education

Note**: Integration of research and education is the core of the CAREER program.** It should be emphasized significantly.

Questions to ask as you write:

1. How will the research impact your education goals?
2. How will your education activities feed back into the research?

* NSF makes it clear that education activities should inform the research, not just the other way around: “*NSF. . . encourages all applicants to think creatively about the reciprocal relationship between the proposed research and education activities and how they may inform each other . . . These plans should reflect the proposer's own disciplinary and educational interests and goals, as well as the needs and context of his or her organization*.”

**V.** Results of prior NSF support (if applicable)

1. Identifying information:
   1. NSF Award number:
   2. Award Amount:
   3. Period of Support:
2. Project Title:
3. Summary of the results of the completed work, including accomplishments, organized under two distinct headings.
   1. Intellectual Merit:
   2. Broader Impacts:
4. List of publications resulting from award (A complete bibliographic citation for each publication must be provided either here or in the References; it it’s not going in the References, put it here):
5. Evidence of research products and their availability, including, but not limited to: data, publications, samples, physical collections, software, and models, as described in any Data Management Plan:

Report on ONLY the one award most closely related to this proposal.

Report on ONLY NSF funding with a START DATE in the past five years.

**General Notes**

* Are the project’s intellectual merit and broader impacts, NSF’s two merit review criteria, clear and explicitly outlined?
  + Intellectual merit: “The Intellectual Merit criterion encompasses the potential to advance knowledge”
  + Broader impacts:
    - “’Broader Impacts’ may be accomplished through the research itself, through activities that are directly related to specific research projects, or through activities that are supported by, but are complementary to, the project. The project activities may be based on previously established and/or innovative methods and approaches, but in either case must be well justified.”
      * Need appropriate metrics to assess/evaluate the project’s broader impacts, although “assessing the effectiveness of these activities may best be done at a higher, more aggregated, level than the individual project.”
    - Your Broader Impacts plan should stand out as creative, original, and feasible – you should make contact with any people, groups, or institutions whom you include in your Broader Impacts activities
* Does the project come across as both **ambitious** and **feasible**?
  + For CAREER grants, NSF is investing in a person, not just a research project. You need to show that you have a compelling, potentially transformative vision, and that you have thought about contingencies (i.e., what will you do if Plan A doesn’t go as intended)