

DISCCRS VIII

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Sue's Suggestions for Successful Proposals

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Attributes of Successful Proposals

- New and original ideas
- Sound, succinct, detailed, focused plan
- Significance/importance well articulated
- Preliminary data and/or feasibility study
- Relevant experience and facilities
- Clarity concerning future direction
- Well-articulated broader impacts

NSF Merit Review

NSF Review Criteria

See *NSF Grant Proposal Guide Ch. 3*

http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=gpg

- Intellectual Merit
- Broader Impacts
- Programs can also have **additional** review criteria – read the Program Solicitation!

Merit Review is conducted through ad hoc peer review and/or panel review. See solicitation for details.

NSF Criterion 1: Intellectual Merit

- How important is the proposed activity to advancing knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields?
- How well qualified is the proposer (individual or team) to conduct the project? (If appropriate, the reviewer will comment on the quality of prior work.)
- To what extent does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts?
- How well conceived and organized is the proposed activity?
- Is there sufficient access to resources?

NSF Criterion 2: Broader Impacts

- Advance discovery and understanding while promoting teaching, training, and learning?
- Broaden the participation of underrepresented groups (e.g., gender, ethnicity, disability, geographic, etc.)?
- Enhance the infrastructure for research and education, such as facilities, instrumentation, networks, and partnerships?
- Results be disseminated broadly to enhance scientific and technological understanding?
- Benefits of the proposed activity to society?

Considerations are suggestions, and not all will apply to any given proposal. While proposers must address both merit review criteria, reviewers will be asked to address only those considerations that are relevant to the proposal being considered and for which the reviewer is qualified to make judgments.

Sue's Advice

- **Identify most appropriate agency(s)/program(s) for your work and diversity your funding stream**
- **Read the funding opportunity** (program descriptions, solicitations) carefully, and ask a program officer for clarifications if needed
- **Learn the culture**- each agency, division/solicitation is different
- **Know and follow** the **current** proposal guidelines, e.g. NSF Grant Proposal Guide (GPG) - it changes! (e.g., [data management](#))
- **Explicitly** address agency/program goals and review criteria.

Sue's Advice

- **Know the audience** for your proposal's review!
- **Compelling Project Summary**-big picture
- Match and **justify the budget** to the scope of the proposed work - ask for what you need!
- Be familiar with projects that have succeeded - Award Abstracts at <http://nsf.gov/awardsearch>
- Download your completed proposal back to you to check it's what you sent!
- Submit proposals before the last day/hour

Sue's Top Tips

- Volunteer to serve as a proposal reviewer; send a short e-mail with your contact information including a webpage if you have one; attach a copy of your BioSketch and/or CV
- If you have an idea for a proposal and want to contact your program officer, do your homework first:
 - Read relevant Dear Colleague Letters, program information and proposal solicitations carefully before calling.
 - Send an e-mail before calling. E-mail should include a brief summary (no more than 1 page; shorter is better).
 - If you need advice from more than one program or program officer, cc all on one message: **DO NOT** send same e-mail separately to multiple PO's....