

## NSF Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER) Updates for 2017

A new CAREER solicitation ([17-537](#)) was released in January 2017. While it is substantially unchanged from the previous solicitation, it contains a few revisions. Of note:

- Senior personnel now allowed.
- Eligibility requirements revised to clarify the required early-career status of applicants.
- Introductory paragraphs emphasize integration of education and proposed research and the reciprocal relationship between the two.
- New paragraph covers entrepreneurship, industry partnerships, or policy that may enhance research and education plans. (*Our advice: Consult with NSF program officer.*)
- Additional emphasis given to strategies for assessing impact/effectiveness of research and education plans.
- New examples of educational activities are provided. (*Per NSF: These examples are not intended to be prescriptive; they are provided to spark innovation and creativity.*)
- New information provided on cross-sector perspectives, scientific software development, and proposals requiring seagoing facilities.
- New requirements for departmental letter are described.
- New [FAQs](#) for Submission in Years 2017 – 2019.

### Quick tips for proposers

1. Reviewers' expectations for the type, number, and scope of research and education activities for CAREER proposals vary greatly by directorate, division, and even specific cluster. It's therefore essential that the investigator carefully review abstracts of successful CAREER proposals *in his/her discipline*. NSF's [Award Search Feature](#) is a user-friendly tool. To use it to find recent CAREER abstracts, enter "1045" in the reference code field (this is the code for CAREER awards). In the organization field, select the applicable directorate. Additional fields allow the PI to further refine the search. For more info about the search feature, visit NSF's [advance search help page](#).
2. To see the most common mistakes made by PIs in both the Intellectual Merit and Broader Impact proposal sections, see pages 18-19 of a recent [NSF slide show](#). The other slides share pertinent information as well.