

***TIGER TIPS***  
***RESOURCES FOR AUBURN RESEARCHERS***  
**ADVICE FOR NSF CAREER PROPOSERS**

The National Science Foundation's (NSF) Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) offers NSF's "most prestigious awards in support of early-career faculty who have the potential to serve as academic role models in research and education and to lead advances in the mission of their department or organization. Activities pursued by early-career faculty should build a firm foundation for a lifetime of leadership in integrating education and research." A career development award is not intended to be just a research award.

The current solicitation for the program is [NSF 17-537](#) with due dates established for specific directorates in July 2018 (July 18<sup>th</sup> for BIO, CISE, EHR; July 19<sup>th</sup> for ENG; and July 20<sup>th</sup> for GEO, MPS, SBE). There are a few important revisions that are addressed in the solicitation including a clarification related to the early career status of potential applicants and the ability to include support for senior personnel other than the principal investigator that is commensurate with a limited collaborative role in the project (previously unallowable).

There are a few things to consider when trying to determine if the CAREER program is right for you:

- Can you think of a proposal that is appropriate for NSF with research and education activities that are innovative and ambitious?
- Is your Department supportive?
- Are you seriously committed to the goals of CAREER?
- Are you at the right stage in your career?
- Would like to be considered for the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE), if eligible?
- Have you discussed your ideas with mentors, fellows, program officers?

In order to meet the investigator eligibility, an individual must hold a doctoral degree by proposal deadline; be untenured and employed in a tenure-track (or tenure-track-equivalent) assistant professor position at an eligible institution as of October 1<sup>st</sup> following the deadline (Auburn is an eligible institution); have both research and educational responsibilities at Auburn; have not previously received a CAREER award; and have not had more than two CAREER proposal reviewed previously.

As the CAREER program is Foundation-wide within NSF, it is important to understand that the typical award size will vary according to specific directorates, divisions or programs and the expectations for scope of research and education activities vary with disciplinary community

norms. Contact information for program representatives within all directorates is reflected in the CAREER solicitation.

Traits of a successful CAREER Proposal:

- High quality -- This is a highly competitive program!
- Matches disciplinary program expectations.
- Includes an appropriate scope of activities for a 5-year plan, not one's whole life!
- Goes outside the education box of regular research proposals in the field.
- Strikes a balance between doable research activities and more risky pursuits.

Looking for additional information?

- <http://www.nsf.gov/career>
- [Solicitation 17-537](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [CAREER Directorate and Division Contacts](#)
- [Career-Life Balance \(CLD\) Supplemental Funding Requests](#)
- [Funded Awards](#)

In addition, do not hesitate to contact the Office of Sponsored Programs or applicable college-level designee with questions.