

2024 – 2025 Faculty Seminars & Workshops

Research Development Service (RDS)

<https://u.tamu.edu/RDScalendar>

Annually RDS hosts opportunities for the Texas A&M Research Community to increase their knowledge and skills in research proposal development to federal funding agencies. Academic Year 24-25 Professional Development opportunities are offered in in-person and virtual formats. Registration is required for BOTH types of events. Virtual events will supply Zoom links upon registration. These events are for all faculty. Offerings of professional development for [postdocs](#) and [graduate students](#) are listed on their organizational webpages.

National Science Foundation (NSF)

Getting to Know the National Science Foundation

August 28, 2024, 1:30 – 3:00 pm, Virtual

An overview of the National Science Foundation (NSF) covering the organization, proposal types, proposal review, and review criteria (Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts), as well as discussion about what's new at the NSF. Useful to researchers when deciding whether to submit a proposal to NSF and to which program to submit. Open to all faculty levels.

Presenter: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

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NSF Supporting Proposal Documents

September 10, 2024, 1:30 – 3:00 pm, Virtual

Discussing supporting documents required for National Science Foundation proposals, including recent changes to the Biosketch, Current & Pending (Other) Support, and Mentoring Plan. It will also provide information on available resources to assist faculty with developing these documents. Open to all faculty levels.

Presenter: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

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National Science Foundation (NSF) Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER)

CAREER: Introduction to the NSF CAREER Program with Recent Awardees Panel

October 17, 2024, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm (lunch provided), Rudder 301 & 302

This Kick-off to the FY25 RDS CAREER Assistance Program begins with an introduction to the National Science Foundation's Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program and includes an awardee panel lunch. Topics covered include PI eligibility, deadlines, proposal requirements, what makes the CAREER program different from other NSF programs, why CAREER proposals are not typical research proposals, how CAREER proposals are reviewed differently from typical research proposals, and available resources to assist faculty with preparing CAREER proposals.

Presenter: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

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CAREER: Timeline, Strategies, and Long-Term Goals for Developing a Proposal

November 11, 2024, 12:00 – 1:00 pm (lunch provided), MSC 2406A Discussion and Q&A with former NSF Program Officers and past CAREER Awardees

Timeline and strategies to develop a successful NSF CAREER proposal, how to decide what research topics to pursue, how to find a home program at NSF, when to submit, and how to build a competitive case, as well as effective ways to connect an NSF CAREER Plan to long-term goals.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

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CAREER: Project Description

December 2, 2024, 12:00 – 1:00 pm (lunch provided), Rudder 302 Discussion and Q&A with former NSF Program Officers and past CAREER Awardees

Required and recommended sections to include in a project description, why having a section on "Prior Achievements" is recommended, and what to include in the "Prior Achievements" section. Specific discussion will include research goals and objectives, scope of the project, best practices and common mistakes, differences between fundamental research and development work, why many reviewers are in favor of hypothesis-driven research, why having a section on "Relationship to the Present State of Knowledge in the Field" is recommended, and common research plan weaknesses.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

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CAREER: Writing Groups Kick-Off

February 4, 2025, 9:00-10:00 am, Virtual

This meeting is to familiarize faculty with the goals and organization of the TAMU NSF CAREER proposal peer writing groups, including resource materials, Q&A session, and scheduling of writing meetings for February – May. The groups will then meet bi-weekly going through the entire preparation process of their CAREER proposal with peer review and input as they write each section of their CAREER proposals.

Presenter: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

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CAREER: Project Summary and Structuring and Formatting Proposals for Reviewers

March 17, 2025, 12:00 – 1:00 pm (lunch provided), MSC 1400 Discussion and Q&A with former NSF Program Officers and past CAREER Awardees

Discussion of what is required for the Project Summary will include tips on how to write it most effectively for an NSF CAREER proposal, and how to make a positive lasting impression on reviewers. Also included will be tips for making an NSF CAREER proposal stand out, section hierarchy and structuring of the proposal, using NSF language, graphics advice, formatting (e.g., fonts & white space), and features of strong departmental letters.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

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CAREER: The Education Plan

March 25, 2025, 12:00 – 1:30 pm (lunch provided), Rudder 701

This working lunch session will begin with discussion of education goals and objectives, creating quantifiable metrics and specific plans for success, integration of research and education, leveraging Texas A&M's HSI status, and examples of good and bad education objectives. Bring ideas for your education plan and explore campus programs you can leverage in your plan development.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

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CAREER: Project Summary Feedback Roundtable Discussion

April 17, 2025, 11:30 – 1:00 pm, (lunch provided), MSC 2500

Participants will bring their CAREER project summaries to a group to get feedback on strengths and weaknesses from former program directors, recent CAREER awardees, research development staff, and peer attendees. Each group will review 4 – 6 project summaries.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

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Broader Research Impacts

Q&A on the Anti-DEI Law and Grant Proposals

September 24, 2024, 1:30-2:30pm, Hybrid, ROOM

This hybrid event presented by the TAMUS Office of General Counsel will provide guidance to Texas A&M researchers on how to comply with Senate Bill 17 in developing and preparing research grant proposals. Focusing on responding to expressed questions and issues of concern, this event will address what the law prohibits, how to define DEI, misconceptions, exceptions to the law (including the research exception), and scenario examples. Please provide your most pressing questions and scenarios for the speaker when you register to help the event meet your needs.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

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Broader Impacts 101

October 29, 2024, 12:00 – 1:00 pm, (lunch provided), MSC 2404

Come to gain a better understanding for and transform the way you think about the National Science Foundation's Broader Impacts review criterion and learn where to go for broader impacts resources on campus and how to create a broader impacts plan. (Same content as Jan. 28, 2025, virtual event)

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

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Owning Your Broader Impacts

November 19, 2024, 12:00 – 1:30 pm (lunch provided), MSC 2406A

Already have some ideas about what the Broader Impacts criterion is at the National Science Foundation, but want to maximize your effort in addressing the criterion? Bring your ideas to this working session for some lively discussion and discover what broader impacts can do for you. We will explore the campus resources groups and the Broader Impacts Toolkit to help you create an award-winning plan.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

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Broader Impacts 101

January 28, 2025, 1:00 – 2:00 pm, Virtual

Come to gain a better understanding for and transform the way you think about the National Science Foundation's Broader Impacts review criterion and learn where to go for broader impacts resources on campus and how to create a broader impacts plan. (Same content as October 28, 2024, in-person event)

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

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Education and Outreach Expo

February 25, 2025, 1:30 – 3:00 pm, Rudder Tower 601

Presentation and Expo

This interactive networking event will start with faculty viewing on-line introductions to 20+ campus representatives in programs that faculty can collaborate on the education and outreach aspects of their NSF proposals. Then, at the expo, attendees will have opportunity to network with these campus program representatives. All faculty are encouraged to attend.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

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Broader Research Impacts at Federal Agencies

April 22, 2025, 1:00 - 2:00 pm, Virtual

This informational session will discuss how different federal agencies address the broader impacts of the research they fund in the requirements for proposals researchers write for funding. Discussion will include, among others: National Science Foundation Broader Impacts, Department of Energy Promoting Inclusive and Equitable Research (PIER) Plans, and National Institutes of Health Inclusion Policies.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate

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Department of Energy (DoE)

Department of Energy (DOE) Early Career Research Program

Oct. 2024, Day/Time TBD, 3 Hours

Mitchell Institute for Fundamental Physics & Astronomy, Hawking Auditorium

This 3-hour event will include presentations by DOE program officers and past awardees, including time for Q&A. The RDS and DOE collaborative has a comprehensive plan to assist faculty targeting this funding opportunity and will present information on developing a competitive proposal for this program.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

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National Institute of Health (NIH)

Write Winning NIH Grant Proposals

November 12, 2024, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

This seminar presented by Grant Writers' seminars & Workshops provides a broad overview of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), identifying NIH funding opportunities, the NIH proposal submission and review process, and strategies to build a competitive NIH proposal.

Presenter: Dr. John Robertson, Consultant from [GWSW](#).

Contact: [Shannon Eyre](#), RDS, Sr. Administrative Coordinator

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General Proposal Writing

Writing Successful Proposals

February 14, 2025, 1:30 – 3:00pm, Virtual

A seminar designed to offer faculty an overview of strategic proposal design and best practices to create a competitive research proposal. Applicable to all disciplines. Early Career faculty are encouraged to attend.

Presenter: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

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Young Investigator Programs

Introduction to Young Investigator Programs and Faculty Fellowships

January 23, 2025, 1:30 – 3:00 pm, Virtual

Programs targeting young investigators provide an opportunity for assistant professors to compete among equals, often for prestigious awards. Faculty Fellowships can help prepare faculty for successfully competing for these awards. This event will discuss advantages and strategies in applying to these young investigator programs and faculty fellowships. Details and best practices for applying to programs at federal agencies and foundations will include Department of Defense, National Institutes of Health, and NASA, as well as the Gulf Research Program and American Chemical Society.

Contact: Dr. [Laurie Garton](#), RDS Associate Director

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