

# Summary of Significant Changes to the NSF Grant Proposal Guide

January 2008

[http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf08\\_1/index.jsp](http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf08_1/index.jsp)

## **Chapter II - Proposal Preparation Instructions (Section B)**

### **2. Proposal Margin and Spacing Requirements**

The proposal must be clear, readily legible, and conform to the following requirements:

a. Use one of the following typefaces identified below:

- Arial<sup>19</sup>, Courier New, or Palatino Linotype at a font size of 10 points or larger
- Times New Roman at a font size of 11 points or larger
- Computer Modern family of fonts at a font size of 11 points or larger

A font size of less than 10 points may be used for mathematical formulas or equations, figure, table or diagram captions and when using a Symbol font to insert Greek letters or special characters. PIs are cautioned, however, that the text must still be readable;

b. No more than 6 lines of text within a vertical space of 1 inch; and

c. Margins, in all directions, must be at least an inch.

These requirements apply to all uploaded sections of a proposal, including supplementary documentation.

## **Chapter III - NSF Proposal Processing and Review**

### **A. Review Criteria**

#### **What is the intellectual merit of the proposed activity?**

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?

#### **What are the broader impacts of the proposed activity?<sup>33</sup>**

How well does the activity advance discovery and understanding while promoting teaching, training, and learning? How well does the proposed activity broaden the participation of underrepresented groups (e.g., gender, ethnicity, disability, geographic, etc.)? To what extent will it enhance the infrastructure for research and education, such as facilities, instrumentation, networks, and partnerships? Will the results be disseminated broadly to enhance scientific and technological understanding? What may be the benefits of the proposed activity to society?

NSF staff will give careful consideration to the following in making funding decisions:

#### *Integration of Research and Education*

One of the principal strategies in support of NSF's goals is to foster integration of research and education through the programs, projects and activities it supports at academic and research institutions. These institutions provide abundant opportunities where individuals may concurrently assume responsibilities as researchers, educators, and students, and where all can engage in joint efforts that infuse education with the excitement of discovery and enrich research through the diversity of learning perspectives.

#### *Integrating Diversity into NSF Programs, Projects, and Activities*