

# **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program For Fiscal Years 2003, 2004, and 2005 (NSF 03-031)**

Also includes information on the NSF component of the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) Program

## **CAREER PROGRAM SOLICITATION CHANGES**

**The CAREER Program offers the National Science Foundation's most prestigious awards for outstanding faculty early in their independent professional careers. To strengthen and enhance the Foundation's support of CAREER, and to ensure that the size and duration of the awards are fully commensurate with the importance of the program, beginning with the FY 2003 CAREER competition, changes were made to the CAREER Program Solicitation ([NSF 02-111](#)) in the following areas:**

**Eligibility  
Award Size  
Departmental Endorsement**

Changes were also made in proposal preparation and submission guidelines, including changes in the submission deadline dates.

### **SUBMISSION DEADLINE:**

**Proposals must be submitted via FastLane by 5:00 p.m., your local time, on or before the applicable deadline date below:**

July 23, 2002; July 22, 2003; **July 20, 2004**

Biological Sciences (BIO)

Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE)

Education and Human Resources (EHR)

July 24, 2002; July 23, 2003; **July 21, 2004**

Engineering (ENG)

July 25, 2002; July 24, 2003; **July 22, 2004**

Geosciences (GEO)

Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS)

Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE)

Office of Polar Programs (OPP)

The official guidelines for submission of CAREER proposals can be found in the Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Program Solicitation ([NSF 02-111](#)), available on the NSF web site (<http://www.nsf.gov/career>). Step-by-step submission instructions are also available at this site. The following questions and answers are intended to be helpful supplements to the program guidelines. New and substantially revised questions are identified as such throughout this document.

The following sections of this document can be directly accessed by selecting the appropriate heading:

[A. ELIGIBILITY](#)

[B. PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS AND FASTLANE](#)

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## **A. ELIGIBILITY**

- 1. Question: My department (or organization) does not offer tenure, so I am not in a tenure-track appointment. How can I determine if my appointment would be considered a tenure-track-equivalent appointment?**

**Answer:** For your appointment to be considered a tenure-track-equivalent appointment you must meet all of the following requirements:

- Your employing department or organization does not offer tenure;
- You are engaged in research in an area of science or engineering supported by NSF;
- Your appointment is a continuing appointment;
- Your appointment has substantial educational responsibilities; and
- Your career-development plan relates to your career goals and job responsibilities as well as the goals of your department/organization.

"Research" and "Instructor" positions are typically not considered to be CAREER-eligible tenure-track-

equivalent positions and individuals in soft-money appointments and/or visiting appointments are not considered to be in continuing appointments. You will be asked to certify that your position meets these requirements at the time you prepare your proposal cover sheet. In addition, your Department Chair will be asked to verify this information. Since you are self-certifying your eligibility, **you do not need to get NSF approval of a tenure-track-equivalent appointment before submitting a CAREER proposal.** However, if you have any questions you can direct them to the appropriate CAREER Directorate Contact. The "CAREER Contacts List" can be found on the CAREER Web page at <http://www.nsf.gov/home/crsspgrm/career/contacts.htm>.

2. **Question: Although my organization offers tenure, the research institute that employs me does not. Am I eligible?**

**Answer:** Yes, you can apply as long as your appointment meets the requirements for [tenure-track equivalency](#) and you meet all of the other CAREER eligibility criteria.

3. **Question: Am I eligible to apply if I work at a non-degree-granting organization such as a museum, observatory, or research lab?**

**Answer:** Yes, but your appointment must be a tenure-track or [tenure-track-equivalent](#) appointment and you must also meet all of the other CAREER eligibility requirements.

4. **Question: According to the CAREER Program Solicitation I am required to hold a doctoral degree by the July proposal submission deadline. I have defended my thesis but have not been awarded the diploma. Can I apply to the CAREER Program?**

**Answer:** No. You are not eligible unless you receive the official, dated diploma, by the relevant Directorate's July deadline for submission of CAREER proposals.

5. **Question: There is a new eligibility requirement that applicants have not competed more than two times previously in the NSF CAREER Program. I have applied three times, but one of my proposals was withdrawn (or was returned due to non-compliance with the proposal submission requirements) before it was reviewed. I did not have the benefit of reviewers' feedback. Does that application count against me?**

**Answer:** No. The CAREER Program Solicitation states that you could not have "competed" more than two times previously in the NSF CAREER Program (i.e., you may compete a total of three times). Therefore, as long as your withdrawn/returned proposal was not considered in the CAREER competition (you did not have the benefit of the reviewers' comments), that CAREER proposal does not count towards your eligibility and you will be eligible one more time.

6. **Question: The CAREER eligibility requirements in the previous solicitation (NSF 01-84) included restrictions on time elapsed since receipt of doctoral degree and as well as since start of the first tenure-track (or equivalent) appointment. Are there no longer qualifying dates for receipt of degree and first appointment?**

**Answer:** NSF has streamlined and simplified the eligibility criteria, recognizing that early-career faculty members must develop their careers at whatever rate is appropriate for them given their

personal and professional choices. Therefore, there are no longer qualifying dates for receipt of degree and first appointment. **No eligibility exemptions will be granted.**

7. **Question: I have just started in a tenure-track (or equivalent) position as an assistant professor (or equivalent). Since I now have three opportunities to apply to the CAREER Program, I am unsure as to whether I should apply now or wait until next year. What should I do?**

**Answer:** With the elimination of the eligibility window that included dates since first tenure-track appointment and receipt of doctoral degree, NSF added the requirement that applicants will have three opportunities to apply to the CAREER Program. The intent of this addition is to encourage new faculty to think strategically about their readiness for the CAREER Program. Since background and experience can vary for each new faculty member (based on post-docs and/or industry or other experience), it is suggested that you consult with your Department Chair regarding your own individual career-development plans and goals in order to determine what would work best for you.

8. **Question: I held a tenured position at my former organization, but I am not in a tenured position now. Am I eligible to apply?**

**Answer:** Yes, you are eligible to apply as long as you are untenured as of the relevant Directorate's July deadline for submission of CAREER proposals and you meet the other CAREER eligibility criteria.

9. **Question: In the current CAREER Program Solicitation it states that applicants must have the title of "assistant professor" or equivalent. I am in a tenure-track appointment, but my title is "associate professor." Can I apply?**

**Answer:** No. Since the CAREER Program is intended for faculty members who are at or near the beginning of their careers, NSF added the requirement that applicants hold the title of "assistant professor" or equivalent by the October 1st that follows their July proposal submission deadline. If your title were to change to "associate professor" after October 1st, you would still be eligible for a CAREER award.

10. **Question: Am I eligible if I have an adjunct appointment at a university/college?**

**Answer:** No. Adjunct appointments are not CAREER-eligible tenure-track or tenure-track-equivalent appointments.

11. **Question: Am I eligible if I work at a 2-year college or a community college?**

**Answer:** These colleges are CAREER-eligible institutions if they award degrees in a field supported by NSF. If you meet all of the other CAREER eligibility criteria, you are eligible to apply to the CAREER Program.

12. **(Added 01/03) Question: I have a Doctorate in Mathematics Education. Am I eligible to apply?**

**Answer:** Yes. NSF supports educational research both through the Education and Human Resources (EHR) Directorate and also through all of the other Directorates. However, a person with a Ph.D or Ed.D. in education will probably be conducting research that is more applicable to the Education and Human Resources Directorate. If you are not sure where to submit your proposal, talk with the program director of the program you think is most closely related to your research or to one of the CAREER Contacts in the relevant Directorate. Telephone numbers and email addresses for NSF staff can be found through the NSF staff directory at <http://staff.nsf.gov/>. The CAREER contacts list is available at <http://www.nsf.gov/home/crssprgm/career/contacts.htm>.

13. **Question: I am a new faculty member in a tenure-track appointment at a university that qualifies as an "undergraduate institution" under the provisions of the Research in Undergraduate Institutions Program Announcement (RUI), [NSF 00-144](#). Can I submit to the CAREER Program and if so, is it possible to apply for the CAREER Program under the RUI provisions?**

**Answer:** You can apply to the CAREER Program as long as you meet all of the CAREER eligibility requirements. However, you cannot submit your proposal to the CAREER Program and apply under the RUI Program Announcement. Therefore, you must choose to submit the proposal to RUI or to CAREER. NSF encourages CAREER proposals from new faculty members at **all** U. S. academic institutions that award degrees in a field supported by NSF. CAREER awardees will be selected on the basis of creative career-development plans that effectively integrate research and education within the context of the mission of their organization. Predominantly undergraduate institutions play a critically important role in U.S. science and technology through their substantial contributions to research and education. Therefore, applicants from RUI institutions are encouraged to apply to the CAREER Program.

14. **Question: Am I eligible if I hold a shared tenure-track appointment at a university?**

**Answer:** Yes. You do not need to be in a full-time tenure-track appointment. However, you must meet all the other CAREER eligibility requirements.

15. **Question: I do not currently hold a CAREER-eligible appointment but I hope to have one by October 1st. Can I apply?**

**Answer:** No. To apply to the July deadline for submission of CAREER proposals you must be employed in a CAREER-eligible position at a CAREER-eligible organization or have a contractual agreement with a CAREER-eligible organization for you to begin a CAREER-eligible appointment by the October 1st deadline that follows your July CAREER proposal submission deadline.

16. **Question: I am not a U.S. citizen, national, or permanent resident. Can I still apply to the CAREER program?**

**Answer:** Yes, you may apply to the CAREER program if you meet the CAREER eligibility

criteria, including affiliation with a U.S. organization. However, you will not be eligible for an NSF PECASE award unless you are a U.S. citizen, national, or permanent resident by the relevant Directorate's July deadline for submission of proposals.

**17. Question: If I have received funds from the Federal Government to perform research, am I still eligible?**

**Answer:** Yes, you may submit a CAREER proposal as long as those funds were not received from NSF in the CAREER program and the proposed research activities of your CAREER application do not duplicate those concurrently supported through another source. However, you do need to meet all CAREER eligibility criteria.

## **B. PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS AND FASTLANE**

Proposals must be submitted via FastLane. We strongly encourage all applicants to begin preparing your CAREER proposals early, especially if this is your first experience submitting to NSF through FastLane. Before preparing a CAREER proposal, refer to the CAREER Program Solicitation and the FastLane Web page at <http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/a1/newstan.htm> for detailed instructions on proposal preparation and submission. Also refer to the FAQs on FastLane proposal preparation, which can be found at <http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/a0/about/a1faq.htm>.

**1. (Added 01/03) Question: Why can't I access the Proposal Preparation section of FastLane?**

**Answer:** You and your institution must be registered in FastLane in order to have access to the FastLane proposal-preparation modules and for your Sponsored Projects Office (SPO) or equivalent to submit your proposal in FastLane. If you are not sure if you are registered, contact your Sponsored Projects Office or equivalent as soon as possible.

**2. Question: What if my proposal is submitted after the relevant Directorate's (or Office's) deadline for proposal submissions?**

**Answer:** Only proposals submitted electronically by your organization via FastLane before 5:00 p. m. (your local time) on or before the Directorate/Office deadline will be accepted. Since NSF receives nearly 2,000 proposals in the CAREER program each year, you are encouraged to start your FastLane proposal submission well before the CAREER deadline. Refer to the CAREER Program Solicitation and the FastLane Web page for more details. **Any CAREER proposal received after the Directorate/Office deadline will not be reviewed or considered for funding.** Please note that NSF program officers are not authorized to grant extensions to the deadline for the CAREER program.

**3. Question: I know that my organization has to submit my proposal by 5:00 p.m. my local time, but I understand that there is an Administrative Corrections capability during which authorized Sponsored Project Office personnel may make corrections to the cover sheet and budget pages after the submission. How does this impact my meeting the 5:00 p.m.**



## CAREER proposal submission deadline?

**Answer:** NSF recognizes that minor, non-content-related errors may occur in proposal development and that these errors may not be discovered until after the proposal submission to NSF. To enable organizations to correct such errors, FastLane provides a 60-minute "grace period," that begins immediately following proposal submission. This grace period does not extend the proposal deadline. Your proposal must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. your local time, and administrative corrections are allowed until 6:00 p.m., your local time on your deadline date. During this grace period, authorized sponsored project office personnel are authorized to make administrative corrections only to the Cover Sheet and Budget data. Access to the Administrative Corrections utility is via the Research Administration module on the [FastLane website](#) through use of the "Submit Proposals to NSF" function.

## 4. (Revised 01/03) Question: How do I decide to which program I should submit my CAREER proposal?

**Answer:** When determining where to submit your proposal, you should also consider if the proposed research project falls within the realm of research that NSF normally supports. If so, then you will need to identify a specific disciplinary program that is related to the research goals of the proposal, as CAREER proposals are submitted directly to disciplinary programs for review. In addition to identifying the CAREER Program Solicitation number ([NSF 02-111](#)) on the proposal cover sheet, you **must** specify a disciplinary program. The following resources can help you determine the appropriateness of your project for NSF (and simultaneously to identify the disciplinary program to which you should submit):

- a. The NSF Guide to Programs. This document provides descriptions of NSF's research-supporting programs and is available at <http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?gp>.
- b. Directorate Web pages also provide program information. You can access a Directorate's Web page by selecting the Directorate's heading on the CAREER contacts list at <http://www.nsf.gov/home/crssprgm/career/contacts.htm>.
- c. Talk with the program director of the program you think is most closely related to your research or to one of the CAREER Contacts in the relevant Directorate. Telephone numbers and email addresses for NSF staff can be found through the NSF staff directory at <http://staff.nsf.gov/>. The CAREER contacts list is available at <http://www.nsf.gov/home/crssprgm/career/contacts.htm>.

PIs are strongly encouraged to contact the program officer most closely related to the subject matter when preparing cross-disciplinary proposals. You may designate more than one program in FastLane if you think the proposal should be jointly reviewed by two or more disciplinary programs. *However, do not submit duplicate CAREER proposals to multiple NSF programs.*

Note: if NSF determines that your proposal would be more appropriate for a different program than the

one you indicated, the proposal will be reassigned to the appropriate organizational unit. NSF will make the final determination of where your proposal will be assigned and considered.

**5. Question: I am not sure whether I should submit my proposal to the CAREER Program, to another special NSF Program, or as a regular proposal. To whom should I direct this question?**

**Answer:** You should address your question to the program director of the program you think is most closely related to your research topic or to one of the CAREER Contacts (refer to the list on the CAREER Web page at <http://www.nsf.gov/home/crssprgm/career/contacts.htm>).

**6. Question: I have two possible projects. Can I submit two CAREER proposals?**

**Answer:** No, only one proposal may be submitted to the CAREER program per competition year. If the research topic of the second proposal is considerably different from that described in the CAREER proposal, you may submit a regular unsolicited proposal while the CAREER proposal is under consideration. NSF will return a second proposal on a closely related research topic without review.

**7. Question: I will have a collaborator on my proposal. Can I include the collaborator as a CO-PI or "other senior personnel" on my budget?**

**Answer:** No. Your research project and/or educational activities can be collaborative, but a CAREER award is intended to enable an awardee to carry out his or her individual career-development plan. Therefore, no Co-Principal Investigator may be named and collaborators cannot be analogous to Co-PIs. No salary support for other senior personnel (as defined in Appendix C of the [Grant Proposal Guide](#)) may be included in section A of the budget, either in the primary budget or within a subaward to a collaborating institution.

**8. Question: What documentation can I submit to show the collaborative effort I am proposing?**

**Answer:** The planned collaborative effort(s) should be described in your career-development plan. You may also submit a short letter from each collaborator to support the partnerships you have described in the proposal. Scan the signed and dated letter(s) into the Supplementary Documents section of your proposal. The letters should only describe the planned collaborative effort(s). Reference letters are not allowed. Do not submit any other documentation such as biographical sketches or other NSF forms for any collaborator.

**9. Question: I am interested in adding an international dimension to my career-development plan. Is that allowed and, if so, how would I find out what kinds of activities are eligible for support?**

**Answer:** Plans for international collaborations are encouraged. The opportunity to collaborate



with outstanding foreign researchers and educators, or access unique equipment and facilities, may provide substantial benefits to the research and education activities proposed. For information on the types of activities that are eligible for support in various countries, contact the Division of International Programs and refer to the document "International Opportunities for Scientists and Engineers" (NSF 00-138, available at <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2000/nsf00138/nsf00138.htm>).

**10. Question: How many pages should I devote to describing research and how many to education?**

**Answer:** No number is specified. Use the 15 pages allowed for proposal Section C, Project Description, including any results from prior NSF support, to describe your career-development plan to your best advantage. A major objective of the CAREER program is to encourage the integration of research and education. You may wish to prepare a career-development plan that fully integrates these aspects of your academic career, rather than separating them.

While excellence in both education and research is expected, activity of an intensity that leads to an unreasonable workload is not. For instance, teaching additional courses or taking on additional duties is not expected. In fact, a justification for released time may be appropriate for extraordinary curriculum development or education innovation. What is expected is a well-argued and specific proposal for activities over a 5-year period that will build a firm foundation for a lifetime of integrated contributions to research and education. Refer to the CAREER Program Solicitation, II.A. for representative examples of educational activities. CAREER applicants may also find the [Examples of Activities Illustrating Broader Impacts](#) useful in preparing their CAREER proposals.

**11. Question: What should I discuss with my department head? What should be addressed in the Departmental Endorsement?**

**Answer:** You should discuss your career-development plan and how it fits with your department's and organization's plans, your responsibilities to the department, and the support that the department will give you. Your department head's statement should attest to the department's support of your plan and that your plan is integrated into the educational and research goals of your department and organization. In this statement your Department Chair will also be asked to describe the support the department/organization will provide and to verify your eligibility for the CAREER Program. The statement must follow the format prescribed in the CAREER Program Solicitation. It is recommended that the Departmental Endorsement be approximately one page in length. **Note that the instructions for the preparation of the Departmental Endorsement have changed from the FY 2002 CAREER Program Solicitation (NSF 01-84).**

**12. Question: I would like to submit some additional tabular material that would exceed the 15-page limit on the length of the project description. Can I submit this as an appendix?**

**Answer:** Prior to submission of the proposal, the appropriate NSF Assistant Director must

approve in writing, inclusion of additional material that exceeds the 15-page project description limitation. Please note, however, that such approvals are rarely granted. (See [GPG Section II.A](#) for additional information.)

13. **Question: How do I apply for the PECASE award?**

**Answer:** Each participating Federal agency has its own nomination procedures. Each year NSF will select its PECASE nominees from among the most meritorious PECASE-eligible CAREER awardees who applied to that year's CAREER competition. To be eligible for a PECASE award through NSF, you must submit a CAREER proposal **and** have certified that you were PECASE eligible on the CAREER and PECASE Eligibility Certifications. In addition to meeting the CAREER eligibility requirements, PECASE nominees must be U.S. citizens, nationals, or permanent residents who hold that status on or before their July deadline for submission of CAREER proposals. The most meritorious PECASE-eligible CAREER PIs who have indicated that they are "PECASE Eligible" may be asked to submit supplemental information.

14. **(Revised 01/03) Question: I am preparing a CAREER proposal for submission to the Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR). What are considered acceptable research activities?**

**Answer:** Research plans submitted to EHR should be oriented toward laying the conceptual foundations and expanding the knowledge base necessary to support the enhancement of science, mathematics, technology and engineering education at all levels.

CAREER awards should address the research questions or areas of interest in EHR Divisions and programs. EHR programs that have a strong research component include:

- **Research, Evaluation and Communication Division (REC):** The Research on Learning and Education (ROLE ) and Evaluative Research and Evaluation Capacity Building (EREC).
- **Elementary, Secondary and Informal Science Division (ESIE):** Informal Science Education (ISE); Teacher Professional Continuum (TPC); Instructional Materials Development (IMD); Centers for Learning and Teaching (CLT).
- **Division of Undergraduate Education (DUE):** Assessment of Student Achievement in Undergraduate Education (ASA); National Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education Digital Library (NSDL).
- **Division of Graduate Education (DGE)** NSF Graduate Teaching Fellows in K-12 Education (GK-12); Integrative Graduate Education and Research Training (IGERT).
- **Division of Human Resource Development (HRD):** Gender Diversity in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education (GDSE); Program for Persons with

Disabilities (PPD).

- **Math and Science Partnership (MSP)** Research, Evaluation and Technical Assistance;

These programs can be found on the EHR WebPage at <http://nsf.gov/home/ehr/>.

Activities such as laboratory-equipment design, instructional-materials development, professional development for teachers and/or the creation of informal education programs may be cited as part of the education plan of the CAREER proposal. However, these activities do not satisfy the requirement for a research plan in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education.

15. **(Added 01/03) Question:** To what program in EHR should I submit a CAREER proposal?

**Answer:** All proposals to EHR should be submitted to the Research, Evaluation and Communication Division (REC). REC will coordinate review of proposals among the other Divisions.

16. **Question: I am preparing a CAREER proposal for submission to the Office of Polar Programs. Do I need any additional information before writing my proposal?**

**Answer:** Before preparing your CAREER proposal, you should refer to the Antarctic Research Opportunities and Proposal Guide (NSF 01-81) or the Arctic Research Program Announcement (NSF 00-96). Both of these documents are available from the Office of Polar Programs Web page (<http://www.nsf.gov/home/polar/start.htm>).

17. **Question: If I held an NSF postdoctoral fellowship, do I need to include a "Results from Prior Support" section as mentioned in the Guide Proposal Guide (GPG)?**

**Answer:** Yes, you must include a "Results from Prior Support" section whenever you have served as a PI or co-PI on any NSF grant within the last 5 years. This includes postdoctoral fellowships, grants in equipment programs such as Major Research Instrumentation, and educational grants. If you have received more than one prior award (excluding amendments), you must report on the award that is most closely related to the CAREER proposal. (See [GPG Section II.C](#) for the required information.)

18. **Question: Does it matter which style of referencing is used in the "References Cited - Proposal Section D"?**

**Answer:** Reference styles should conform to standards in your particular field. Titles are required. See [GPG Section II.C](#) for the required information.

## C. ANNOUNCEMENT OF CAREER AWARDS AND PECASE AWARDS

**1. Question: When will I be notified of the final decision on my CAREER proposal?**

**Answer:** Most applicants will be notified by the February following their July deadline. CAREER proposals are reviewed by different panels (and/or ad hoc review) held at different times across the Foundation. Thus, award and declination letters will be issued at different times. You can check the status of your CAREER proposal by accessing the [FastLane website](#). If you have not received notification of a decision on your proposal by February and your proposal status is shown as "pending" in FastLane, you can contact the program or division to which your proposal was assigned to inquire about the status of your proposal. Your proposal's NSF program assignment appears in the FastLane Proposal Inquiry module.

**2. Question: If I receive a CAREER award, how will I know whether I am being considered for a PECASE award? When will I hear something if I am to get a PECASE award?**

**Answer:** All CAREER awardees who are eligible for PECASE and who have certified their eligibility by completing the CAREER and PECASE Eligibility Certifications will be considered. Each year, up to 20 of the most meritorious PECASE-eligible CAREER awardees will be recommended to the White House for consideration for PECASE awards. Recipients will be notified after the Presidential awardees have been selected and approved by the White House. It is anticipated that PECASE notification will be made approximately 15 months following each year's July CAREER proposal submission deadline. No information can be released until such time as the White House announces the awards.

**3. Question: If I receive a PECASE award, what will happen to my CAREER award? What would the PECASE award include?**

**Answer:** NSF PECASE awards are entirely honorary and do not provide additional funds. The PECASE award will not change the amount or duration of your CAREER award.

## **D. BUDGET AND AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION**

**1. Question: What is an appropriate level of funding to request?**

**Answer:** Beginning with the FY 2003 competition, the minimum CAREER award size is \$400,000 for a 5-year period with the following exception. Applicants to the Biological Sciences Directorate (BIO) must submit budget requests for a minimum of \$500,000 (approximately \$100,000 per year) for the 5-year duration. There is no maximum award size. Based on the availability of funds, the minimum amounts for FY 2005 may change. (Check the CAREER Web page (<http://www.nsf.gov/career>) three months prior to the submission deadline for updated information.) To inquire about appropriate budget requests for your discipline and activities you can contact the relevant disciplinary program director or the appropriate CAREER division contact (see the CAREER Contacts List on the CAREER Web page at <http://www.nsf.gov/home/crssprgm/career/contacts.htm>).

2. **Question: In competitions prior to FY 2003, the Directorate for Engineering had a standard award size (such as the \$75,000 per year and \$375,000 total for FY 2002). Has the standard award size for ENG been eliminated?**

**Answer:** Yes, beginning with the FY 2003 CAREER competition the Directorate for Engineering no longer has a standard award size. Therefore, your budgets can vary but they must meet the NSF requirement for a five-year duration and a minimum of \$400,000 for the total award. You should prepare your budgets according to the scope of activities being proposed and the practices within your discipline. To inquire about the appropriate budget request for your proposed CAREER activities and your discipline, you can contact your disciplinary program director or the division's CAREER contact (see the CAREER Contacts List on the CAREER Web page at <http://www.nsf.gov/home/crssprgm/career/contacts.htm>).

3. **Question: Does the duration of CAREER awards still vary from 4 to 5 years?**

**Answer:** No. CAREER awards will be for a uniform duration of 5 years.

4. **Question: Are the reporting requirements for CAREER awards the same as for other NSF awards?**

**Answer:** There are additional reporting requirements for CAREER awards. As with other NSF awards, annual and final reports are required, and CAREER reports must also provide approval and reaffirmation of the department's endorsement of the work plan and continuing partnership in the individual's career-development plan. This approval and reaffirmation of support must be signed by the PI's department head or equivalent and uploaded into the report as a PDF file. Instructions for preparing project reports and uploading departmental endorsements into CAREER project reports can be found on the CAREER Web page at <http://www.nsf.gov/home/crssprgm/career/report.htm>. Also refer to the GPG, Chapter VI.G.1 for information on preparation and submission of annual and final reports. Annual progress reports should summarize progress in both research and education and, where appropriate, collaborative activities. The report should also include an update of other support, if applicable.

## **E. SUPPLEMENTS TO AWARDED GRANTS**

1. **Question: What types of supplemental funds are available for CAREER awards?**

**Answer:** CAREER awards are eligible for supplemental funding as described in the [GPG, Section V.B.4](#).

2. **Question: Should I make preparations to obtain matching funds from industry now?**

**Answer.** No. Supplements for industry matching are no longer allowed for new CAREER awards.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) funds research and education in most fields of science and engineering. Grantees are wholly responsible for conducting their project activities and preparing the results for publication. Thus, the Foundation does not assume responsibility for such findings or their interpretation.

NSF welcomes proposals from all qualified scientists, engineers and educators. The Foundation strongly encourages women, minorities, and persons with disabilities to compete fully in its programs. In accordance with federal statutes, regulations, and NSF policies, no person on grounds of race, color, age, sex, national origin, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving financial assistance from NSF (unless otherwise specified in the eligibility requirements for a particular program).

Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASED) provide funding for special assistance or equipment to enable persons with disabilities (investigators and other staff, including student research assistants) to work on NSF-supported projects. See the program announcement or contact the program coordinator at (703) 292-6865.

The National Science Foundation has Telephonic Device for the Deaf (TDD) and Federal Relay Service (FRS) capabilities that enable individuals with hearing impairments to communicate with the Foundation regarding NSF programs, employment, or general information. TDD may be accessed at (703) 292-5090 or through FRS on 1-800-877-8339.

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## **PRIVACY ACT AND PUBLIC BURDEN STATEMENTS**

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