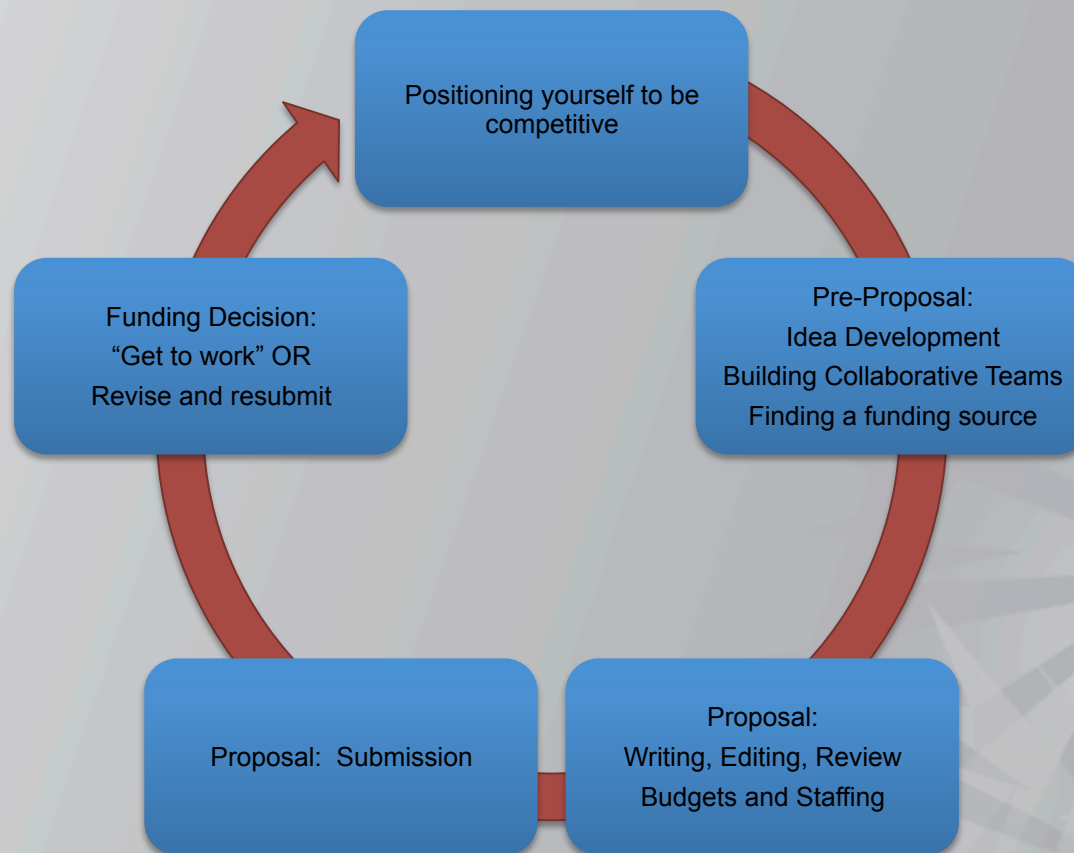


Proposal Basics

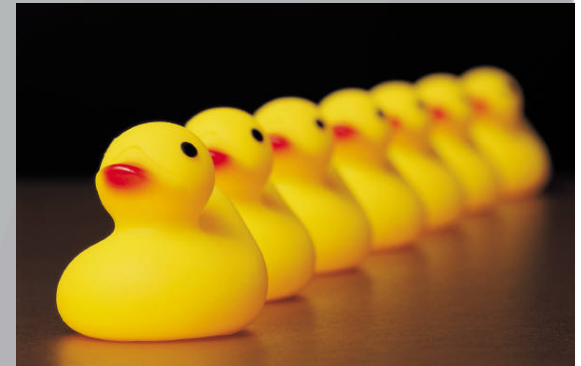
- Who are all the I's?: PI, Co-PI, Co-investigator
- Investigator Initiated Grants: Program Announcements, Funding Opportunities, Program Solicitations etc
- Requests for Applications or Proposals (RFA & RFP):
 - Note: Often one time opportunities with specific due dates and shorter time frame.
 - Grant or Contract
- Letter of intent and pre-proposal

The Grant Process



Positioning Yourself to be Competitive

- Find your passion
- Establish your reputation
 - Scholarship (publishing)
 - Use available (University and other) resources as a springboard
- Develop collaborations
- Volunteer to serve as a grant reviewer (get the “insiders” perspective)



The Pre-Proposal Phase

- Start early and with a good idea
- Identify significance & broader impact of project
 - What makes your project unique and you uniquely qualified to carry it out?
 - Proposal will be judged on scientific merit and potential for impact (even proposals aimed at developing undergraduate research e.g. NIH R15)
- Identify potential funding sources (Office of Sponsored Research can assist). Project should be aligned with funder's goals and priorities

The Pre-Proposal Phase

- Talk to the project officers – early and often!
 - Help evaluate the fit of your idea to funding priorities
 - May suggest alternative funding mechanisms
 - Guidance for how to strengthen your proposal (note: this is not uniform across all agencies)
- Collaboration (internal & external)
 - Repeated Theme: “**Seeking collaborations is critical**”
 - Benefits of multidisciplinary perspectives for advancing knowledge
 - True collaborations/partnerships, not fabricated to make a proposal look good.

The Proposal Phase

- Again: Start Early (e.g. 3-6 mos. before due date) & talk to project officer
- Read the application carefully and follow the instructions
- Communicating the intellectual merit, significance and broader impact of the work
- Learn about the review panel
- Proposal should be well organized & easy to read - reviewers read multiple proposals (sometimes 10-15)
- Consider asking colleague(s) to act as mock reviewer
- See NIH website for more tips: http://grants.nih.gov/grants/writing_application.htm#tips

NIH R15 AREA Grants

- Objectives of the AREA Grant program::
 - Support meritorious research
 - Strengthen the research environment of schools that have not been major recipients of NIH support
 - Expose undergraduate and graduate students to meritorious research

NIH R15 AREA Grants

- AREA Grants are:
 - Research awards NOT training awards
 - Limited to a 3-year period
 - Renewable
 - Limited to schools that have received less than \$6 million in NIH support
 - Direct costs limited to \$300,000 over entire period

NIH R15 AREA Grants

- FY 2008 Awards
 - 758 grants reviewed
 - 212 applications rewarded
 - 28% success rate (varies from institute to institute)
 - \$44,172,133 awarded
- What are the chances of getting an R15 funded?
 - Slightly better than some of the other funding mechanisms
- Missouri State currently has 2 R15 Awards (plus 1 supplement)

NIH R15 AREA Grants

Applications (Enhanced review criteria)

- Use Adobe B Forms
- Budget and other front matter forms
- Research Strategy (12 pages) plus 1 page for Specific Aims
- Facilities and Other Resources
- Biosketch (note new forms and R15 has some differences from traditional biosketch for PI):
- Note Specific due dates for R15's

NIH R15 AREA Grants

- Facilities and Other Resources Section (approximately 4 pages)
 - Extra page opportunity to strengthen your proposal
 - Unique features of environment (profile of students)
 - Research environment
 - How scientific environment will contribute to success
 - Institutional investment in the success of the investigator (special equipment or space, release time, etc)
 - Impact of AREA grant on PI and university

NSF RUI Grants

- Objectives of the NSF RUI program (similar to NIH R15):
 - **Primarily a research grant** - reviewed and judged based on the quality of the science and potential for broader impact
 - Promote and strengthen research environments at institutions not traditionally “research intensive”
 - Requirement: <10 Ph.D. or D.Sc. Degrees per year
 - Promote integration of research and education
 - Does not have a specific dollar limit
- Differences between mission of NSF & NIH

NSF RUI Grants

- RUI Proposals
 - Project summary (1 page)
 - Project Description (15 pages)
 - Literature References
 - Biographical Sketch (2 pages)
 - Budget & Justifications
 - Current & Pending Support
 - Facilities and Equipment
 - RUI Impact Statement (5 pages) – these are extra pages for RUI proposals, use them wisely

NSF RUI Grants

- RUI Impact Statement (5 pages)
 - Contextualize situation
 - Convince reviewers of commitment of University, College(s), Department(s), Investigator(s)
 - Describe importance of research to University, College, Department & Individual
 - Explain approach for engaging students and improving their educational experience
 - How will they engage in the research project
 - Research group meetings
 - Participate in presentations, manuscripts, grants

NSF RUI Grants

- Missouri State currently has 3 of these awards
- RUI– examples of potential budget items:
 - Salary/Stipend Support
 - Summer salary for faculty
 - Student summer support
 - Technician if appropriate
 - Travel
 - Equipment
 - Materials & Supplies
 - Subcontract costs (e.g. genotyping)

Grant funding opportunities

- Sources of Funding
 - Federal: DHHS (NIH, HRSA, etc), NSF, NIJ, CDC, DOE, etc
 - State, local agencies: Missouri DHHS, etc
 - Foundations: Missouri Foundation for Health, Gates, Robert Wood Johnson, Keck, MacArthur, etc....
- Finding Funding
 - Agency homepages & grant search engines (e.g. grants.gov, GRC's GrantSearch)
 - Missouri State's Office of Sponsored Research