

Grant Writing for Graduate Students



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DAY ONE

GEARING UP...

Dave Brubeck, Take Five

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vmDDOFXSgAs>



A. Grant-Writing Strategies and Process

You want to know how to write a successful proposal, right?

I suggest you start by thinking about the bigger picture...

(approx. 1 hr)



Why Build a Funding Portfolio?

		FUNDING LEVEL		
		SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE
RISK	LOW			
	MEDIUM			
	HIGH	(avoid)		



Which Preliminary Steps To Take? Planning your Project

- **Determine your long-term professional & research goals**
 - What is your professional goal? How does research figure into it?
 - Why is your research important? How will it advance the field?
 - If not research, how might grants/fellowships still be important?
- **Develop your bright idea/topic into a Research Question**
 - Conduct search of extant research on the topic (outcomes & predictors)
 - Read it!
 - Contact researchers/mentors working on topic
 - Contact Office of Research/Grad Studies for potential funding sources
- **Develop your Research Question into an empirical project**
 - How will you do your research (data collection and analysis)?
 - Prepare a brief description (“concept paper/white paper/summary page/quad chart,” depending on funding agency)
 - Discuss drafts with colleagues/mentor
- **Imagine your audience** – proposal reviewers and program officers



Which Type(s) of Research Do You Do? Selecting a Funding Mechanism

THE BOWL OF WAX:

What differentiates

- **grants from fellowships?**
- **basic from applied research vs. contracts?**
- **research from training grants?**
- **pilot/seed funding from a full-fledged project?**
- **PI-driven research from capacity- or institution-building grants?**



Think of these categories as ideal types, even as the reality often involves moving on a continuum. Where you “land” impacts the funding agency and mechanism most appropriate for your project.



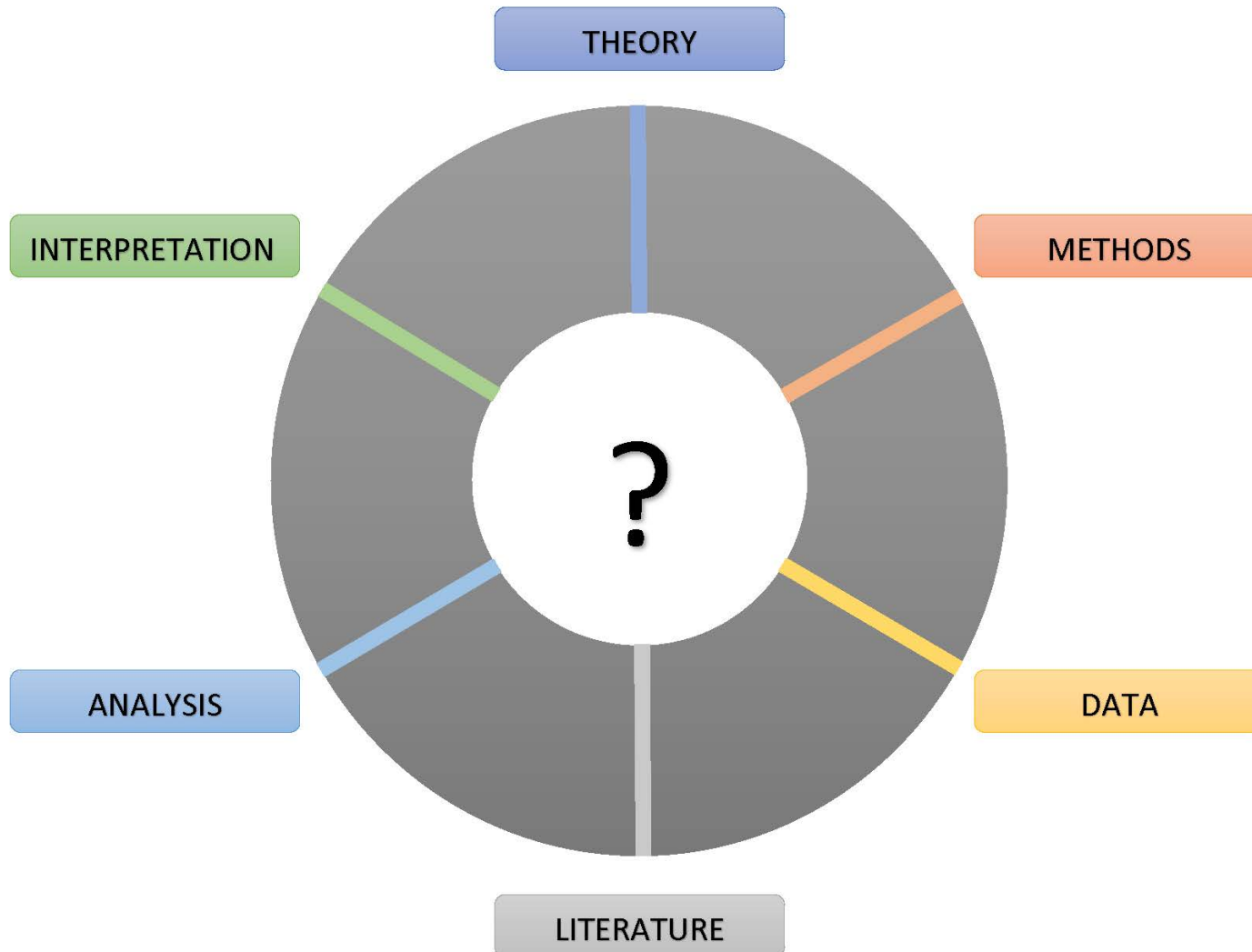
When To Do What: Timing Is Everything

Before you write the actual proposal:

- Start early: Plan one year in advance of submission (18+ months in advance of the time period for which you seek funding).
- Read solicitations/Broad Agency Announcements/Calls for Proposals carefully.
- Optimize the opportunity cost associated with writing a proposal: Identify 2+ potential funders; adapt the core of your proposal to meet their specifications and your needs; deconflict where possible.
- Develop a realistic time plan to submit (retro-engineer from deadline); build in time to obtain and address mentors' feedback; whatever the submission deadline is, YOUR DEADLINE is at least a week earlier!
- Assess research-related financial and time needs realistically (talk to mentors).
- Develop pilot/preliminary data – ***this is key, but what does it mean?***
- ***If relevant:*** Submit your Institutional Review Board (IRB) application early; at least have it pending at submission.
- ***If relevant:*** Solicit letters of recommendation from mentors well in advance of the deadline (and share your proposal/statements).



How Do You Write a Proposal? The Research (and Writing) Wheel



What To Do ... About the Budget?

DON'T DO IT YOURSELF. ASK THE EXPERTS.

Remember that **fellowships** usually provide funding for the researcher. Usually there are no budgets to create (except sometimes for travel or living expenses).

If applying for a **grant**, calculate expenses for conducting research per se. This may or may not include your time.

How much should you ask for?

- Assess how much is reasonable for the work; talk to advisors
- Make sure all budget items are well-justified
- Make sure requests are consistent with program guidelines
- Facilities & Administrative Costs - Talk to experts in sponsored programs early on



What Not To Do

- Lack of focus and follow-through
- Lack of attention to details
- “Trust me” proposals
- Ideological proposals
- Rhetorical Questions
- Gravy train proposals



BREAK! DANCE!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5dhgWwGbpk0>

Cut to 11:00 Funky Monkey



B. The National Science Foundation

WRITING AN NSF PROPOSAL

**DISSERTATION RESEARCH IMPROVEMENT GRANT (DRIG)
GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM (GRFP)**

(approx. 2 hrs total)



NSF Dissertation Research Improvement Grants

The NSF is organized into seven directorates. The Social/Behavioral/Economic Sciences (SBE) directorate is NSF's smallest directorate in terms of funding.

NSF DRIGs (aka DDRIGs) are available in many programs located within the SBE directorate, and in a few outside of the SBE (e.g., Polar Programs/Arctic Science).

Some SBE programs manage their own DRIG competition, others have outsourced it (e.g., to ASA, APSA, AERA).

No citizenship requirement.

EXAMPLES OF SBE Divisions and Programs (as of Fall 2021)

Division of Social & Econ. Sciences (SES)

Economics

Sociology

Interdisciplinary Programs:

Accountable Institutions & Behavior/AIB [Pol Sci]

Decision, Risk & Management Science/DRMS

Human Networks & Data Science/HNDS

Law & Science/LS

Methodology, Measurement, & Statistics/MMS

Science of Organizations/SoO;

Science Technology, & Society/STS

Secure & Trustworthy Cyberspace/SaTC

Security & Preparedness/SAP [Pol Sci]

Smart & Connected Communities/S&CC

Division of Behav. & Cogn. Sciences (BCS)

Archaeology

Biological Anthropology

Cultural Anthropology

Cognitive Neuroscience

Human-Environment and Geographical Sciences/HEGS

Human Networks & Data Science/HNDS

Linguistics

Interdisciplinary Programs:

Developmental Sciences/DS

Perception, Action, & Cognition/PAC

Secure & Trustworthy Cyberspace/SaTC

Smart & Connected Communities/S&CC

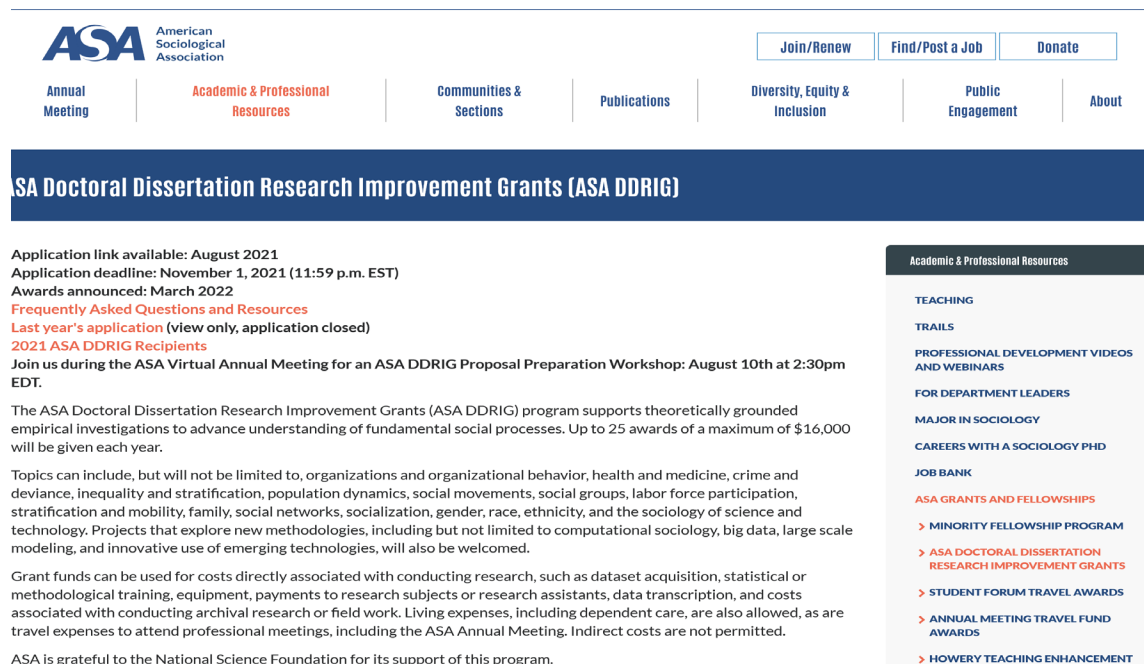
Social Psychology

Smart Health/AI & Advanced Data Science



ASA/NSF Dissertation Research Improvement Grant

- Visit the ASA Program Page <https://www.asanet.org/ASADDRIG> for their description and excellent FAQ
- It addresses many issues: program goals are very similar to NSF's mission statement. Also addresses eligibility, funding, formatting, application components.
- Did you attend the virtual workshop at the 2021 ASA meetings? August 10 @ 2:30pm.



The screenshot shows the ASA website's navigation bar with links for Annual Meeting, Academic & Professional Resources, Communities & Sections, Publications, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Public Engagement, and About. Below the navigation is a blue header for "SA Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants (ASA DDRIG)". The main content area includes application details: link available in August 2021, deadline of November 1, 2021, and awards announced in March 2022. It also features links for frequently asked questions and resources, and a link to view last year's application. A sidebar on the right lists various resources under "Academic & Professional Resources", including teaching, trails, professional development videos, and department leader resources.

ASA American Sociological Association

Annual Meeting | Academic & Professional Resources | Communities & Sections | Publications | Diversity, Equity & Inclusion | Public Engagement | About

SA Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants (ASA DDRIG)

Application link available: August 2021
Application deadline: November 1, 2021 (11:59 p.m. EST)
Awards announced: March 2022
[Frequently Asked Questions and Resources](#)
Last year's application (view only, application closed)
[2021 ASA DDRIG Recipients](#)
Join us during the ASA Virtual Annual Meeting for an ASA DDRIG Proposal Preparation Workshop: August 10th at 2:30pm EDT.

The ASA Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants (ASA DDRIG) program supports theoretically grounded empirical investigations to advance understanding of fundamental social processes. Up to 25 awards of a maximum of \$16,000 will be given each year.

Topics can include, but will not be limited to, organizations and organizational behavior, health and medicine, crime and deviance, inequality and stratification, population dynamics, social movements, social groups, labor force participation, stratification and mobility, family, social networks, socialization, gender, race, ethnicity, and the sociology of science and technology. Projects that explore new methodologies, including but not limited to computational sociology, big data, large scale modeling, and innovative use of emerging technologies, will also be welcomed.

Grant funds can be used for costs directly associated with conducting research, such as dataset acquisition, statistical or methodological training, equipment, payments to research subjects or research assistants, data transcription, and costs associated with conducting archival research or field work. Living expenses, including dependent care, are also allowed, as are travel expenses to attend professional meetings, including the ASA Annual Meeting. Indirect costs are not permitted.

ASA is grateful to the National Science Foundation for its support of this program.

Academic & Professional Resources

- TEACHING
- TRAILS
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT VIDEOS AND WEBINARS
- FOR DEPARTMENT LEADERS
- MAJOR IN SOCIOLOGY
- CAREERS WITH A SOCIOLOGY PHD
- JOB BANK
- ASA GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS
 - > MINORITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
 - > ASA DOCTORAL DISSERTATION RESEARCH IMPROVEMENT GRANTS
 - > STUDENT FORUM TRAVEL AWARDS
 - > ANNUAL MEETING TRAVEL FUND AWARDS
 - > HOWERY TEACHING ENHANCEMENT



Pay Close Attention To

- **Eligibility Criteria:** very broad - doctoral students enrolled at US-based institutions; you do not need to be ABD, but research sponsor must attest to readiness, and you need to make the case for feasibility.
- **Deadlines** 1 cycle per year (NSF program specific; late October/early Nov. for ASA/Sociology); review process Nov-Feb; notification by March; R&R round till May.
- **Funding** levels (~25 awards/year; max \$16k each)
 - Since 2020 administered by ASA, means significant changes in eligible funding/expenses
 - Unlike with NSF-administered grants, there is no F&A/indirect cost; living expenses permitted (effectively can function like fellowship)
- **Application Formatting, Components, Submission:**
 - Looks a lot like the other NSF DRIG applications; Unlike DRIGs for other NSF programs (or actual NSF grants) must submit via ASA's dedicated grants submission platform **Foundant!** (<https://www.asanet.org/ASADDRIG>)
- **Merit Criteria **Intellectual Merit (IM) and Broader Impacts (BI)****
 - IM and BI of the *project* must be addressed in the project description.
 - IM and BI of *applicant* may be woven strategically into specific segments of project description.
 - Biosketch, departmental context, scholar/sponsor statements should also demonstrate the *applicant's* IM and BI (if applicable, tell your letter writers!)



Key Elements of Your DRIG Proposal

I recommend: Write/save each component in Word, for ease of editing. Upload when ready to submit.

Cover Sheet – select a meaningful title!!!!

Project Summary – 1 page (summary, intellectual merit, broader impacts)

Project Description – 10 pages

References

Biographical Sketch(es) - 2 pg.

Budget & Justification – 2 pg + 3 pg.

Current and Pending Support (student +advisor/ faculty/research sponsor)

Data Management Plan – 2 pg.

Plus additional docs needed, listed at <https://www.asanet.org/ASADDRIG>



Sample Project Summary Page (first impressions!)

PROJECT SUMMARY

Overview. Research shows that both military service and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields serve as a social mobility pathway for underrepresented groups, including first-generation college graduates, women, rural and ethnic minorities. Previous research conducted by co-PIs Werum and Steidl using data from the *American Community Survey/ACS* suggests that military service is positively associated with STEM trajectories – in ways fundamentally marked by intersectionality dynamics. Building on these findings, this project addresses the extent to which military service and educational benefits associated with it shape educational and occupational outcomes, particularly in STEM fields. The project has four research objectives: (1) To what extent is this known relationship between military service and STEM trajectories causal vs. spurious? (2) How have era of service and changing GI Bill benefits affected STEM trajectories among veterans? (3) How do organizational demographics associated with specific military service branches shape STEM trajectories? (4) How does using competing definitions of STEM fields employed by federal agencies affect the form and magnitude of the above patterns? To address these questions, this project takes a two-pronged approach: Answering the first and fourth questions involves collection and analysis of original survey data from currently enrolled students at Big 10 institutions who have served in the U.S. military. Answering questions two through four also involves analysis of a multi-year *ACS* sample in combination with publically available yet rarely used branch-level data from *Department of Defense Demographic Reports*. This provides a unique opportunity to combine an in-depth analysis of individual-level predictors with a focus on how organizational and institutional contexts have shaped STEM trajectories.

Intellectual Merit. This project advances understanding of effective pathways into STEM, using a prismatic approach that involves multiple levels of analysis. While it employs multiple theories and concepts, the project is driven by a pressing empirical question of national import. That said, the project advances social science as follows: First, it constructs a new dataset that highlights the experiences of college students with military backgrounds – a population severely underrepresented in most large-scale surveys. Second, it seeks to identify the causal mechanisms, if any, that make military service a more effective conduit into STEM for some vs. others. Third, it builds on extant research about the “STEM Pipeline” by using institutional and organizational theories to explain persistent social stratification patterns in STEM trajectories. While most research in this tradition has focused on human capital explanations, this project places individual experiences in social and historical context. Findings will inform the ongoing debate about the degree to which theories of intersectionality benefit from focusing on individual-level predictors, experiences and identities, as opposed to organizational and structural dynamics. Finally, the project makes a methodological contribution that may help reconcile otherwise seemingly incongruent empirical findings, by assessing how competing STEM definitions used by federal agencies shape conclusions about the scope and extent of the much-discussed STEM shortage.

Broader Impacts. This project addresses recurrent calls from the White House, Secretary of Defense, and National Academy of Sciences to increase the number of STEM professionals, diversify the STEM workforce, and optimize the recruitment of military personnel into STEM. Policymakers’ interest in the findings will be tied to clarifying how federal policies designed to broaden access to higher education (e.g., GI Bills) may have created unanticipated consequences. Findings will also be of interest to the Departments of Defense and Commerce, Veterans Administration, and private-sector employers, who are interested in recruiting and retaining a diverse STEM workforce, especially individuals with a military background, many of whom are poised to work in cybersecurity and classified environments. Finally, given the large number of service members recruited since 9/11 and expected to leave the military soon, this study provides a unique opportunity to optimize not only their transition to civilian life, but also into STEM fields. Thus, findings will inform how federal agencies can design targeted programs to broaden STEM participation.

What is the issue/social problem? What do we and don't we know about it (e.g., its extent, causes and consequences, meaning/impact)?

What puzzle does this generate for scientists?
What research question does this puzzle generate and why is it important to answer it?

How will you answer it? Describe your empirical approach. (Feasibility? Extrapolation potential?)

IM: How will your study contribute to Sociology/Social Science...? What contributions will your study make regarding (any aspect or combination of) theory, concepts, methods, data generation and dissemination, substance?

BI: So what? Who Cares? Outside of your field, who will be interested in your findings? How will the public find out about those findings? What changes in policies or practices, interventions or inventions might your findings inspire?



How to Structure Your Project Description

You have 10 pages. Write your draft in Word. Import when ready.
Make sure you follow all the formatting guidelines.

Suggested Structure:

Overview/Goals & Objectives: 1 p (RQ? Why important?)

Background & Significance: 2 pg (lit review)

Research Plan: 6 pg (methods/data/analysis, timeline, feasibility)

Broader Impacts: ½ p (so what, who cares?)

Intellectual Merit: ½ (how will the project advance science?)

Plus additional docs needed: references, biosketch, budget and justification, current & pending funding, facilities statement, ethics form, DMP (≤ 2 pg), supporting docs if applicable (e.g., collaborators/entities), departmental context statement, research scholar/sponsor statement. If you have an interview questionnaire/survey instrument this may also be included (5 pg max).

.... You can see that a lot of different puzzle pieces need to be assembled. That takes time.



What is a Proper Data Management Plan?

- Does the DMP address what kinds of data, metadata, software, and other materials the research will produce?
- Does the DMP address how those data and products will be managed (e.g., standards for documenting metadata)?
- Does the DMP address how third-party access to these data will be managed, while preserving IRB, confidentiality, security, intellectual property, and other concerns?
- Does the DMP address how the data will be archived and made publically available?



DMP Content Examples

- Data, samples, physical collections, software, curriculum materials, and other materials to be produced in the course of the project.
- The standards to be used for data and metadata format and content.
- Policies for access and sharing including provisions for appropriate protection of privacy, confidentiality, security, intellectual property
- Policies and provisions for re-use, re-distribution, and the production of derivatives.
- Plans for archiving data, samples, and other research products, and for preservation of access to them.
- *I found these sources useful:*
<https://www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/pages/datamanagement/dmp/index.html> and <https://www.mbl.edu/osp/files/2014/07/OSP-NSF-Data-Management-Plan-Template.pdf>



DRIG Merit Review Process

- The ASA's review process likely differs from NSF's.
 - At NSF, some programs hold stand-alone/separate DRIG review panels, others review them alongside regular faculty proposals. At ASA they will be stand-alone, of course.
 - At NSF, co-review by 2+ programs is not unusual and a benefit for interdisciplinary proposals (e.g., Sociology & Geography for a GIS-based study). This is moot with the new ASA-based arrangement.
 - Review-process details will emerge as the redesigned program goes through several iterations. *If* ASA continues to follow NSF norms:
 - At NSF, they used multiple panel reviewers; usually no ad hoc reviewers (in Soc); assigned as specialists/generalists in the field
 - At NSF and ASA, panelists submit written evaluations/scores in advance of panel meeting; at NSF feedback is shared with applicants
 - At NSF, full panel discussed merits of & ranked each proposal (high/med/low/no fund/R&R), made recommendations to program officers
 - At NSF, program officers took funding recommendations into account when making final recommendations
 - Please track the status of your application on ASA site/in Fastlane (do not contact program officers)
- **If you don't succeed, try, try again**





DRIG Final Submission Tips

- Familiarize yourself early with the ASA's submission process/site (or Fastlane if you are applying for a DRIG with another NSF program).
- DRIG: For the ASA/NSF program, you are the research scholar. Your faculty advisor is considered the research sponsor. (If the program is administered by NSF, the faculty advisor is the PI!)
- Whatever the submission deadline is, YOUR DEADLINE is at least a week earlier; your institution will require internal routing! Involve your advisor and the Office of Sponsored Programs early, submission process is complicated.
- If you need Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval, it should be pending at submission.
- Take the DMP seriously (data management, archiving and dissemination).
- Need for letters of recommendation varies by program (none in Sociology) – *contact other Program Directors if you cannot find the information online.*
- Monitor the progress of your proposal via ASA site (Sociology DRIG) or via NSF Fastlane (other programs). Do not contact program directors.



BREAK! DANCE?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p-rSdt0aFuw>



Movin' On....



NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program

- Read the solicitation:
https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?WT.z_pims_id=6201&ods_key=nsf20587
- Visit <https://www.nsfgrfp.org/> and the NSF Program Page for their excellent FAQ <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20114/nsf20114.jsp> and PDF summary https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=6201 .



The screenshot displays the NSF website's funding page for the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP). The page features a blue header with the NSF logo and the tagline "WHERE DISCOVERIES BEGIN". A search bar is located in the top right corner. Below the header, a navigation menu includes "Research Areas", "Funding", "Awards", "Document Library", "News", and "About NSF". The "Funding" section is expanded, showing a sidebar with links to "About Funding", "Browse Funding Opportunities A-Z", "Due Dates", "Find Funding", "Merit Review", "Policies and Procedures", "Preparing Proposals", "Recent Opportunities", "Small Business", and "Transformative Research". The main content area shows the "NSF-wide" section for the "NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)". It includes a "Revision Notes" section stating that NSF will continue to fund outstanding Fellowships in all areas of science and engineering supported by NSF, including high priority research areas of Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Information Science, and Computationally Intensive Research. Applications are encouraged in all disciplines supported by NSF that incorporate these high priority research areas. Below this is the "GRFP 2021 Program and Application Information" section, which states that NSF's GRFP recognizes and supports individuals early in their graduate training in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields. A video presentation on details of the program, and the application process, is available and may be downloaded in PDF format. Please see the GRFP Solicitation NSF 20-587 for more details on the program. At the bottom, there is a "CONTACTS" section.



Pay Close Attention To

- **GRFP Eligibility Criteria** (pp. 12-19, 25-29 in PDF summary)
 - 4 “levels” or categories of applicants; Graduate students generally get just one try; *must be US citizen/PR.*
- **Deadlines** (vary by fields; mid-October for social sciences)
- **Funding** levels (p. 9 of PDF summary; \$34k+\$12k tuition x 3yrs)
- **Application Formatting and Components** (p. 36)
 - Personal Statement/Goals (3 pages)
 - Research Statement (2 pages)
 - Transcripts
 - Reference Letters (min. 2, provide and rank 5 names)
 - Various forms
- **Merit Criteria** (pp. 37-47)
 - **Intellectual Merit (IM) and Broader Impacts (BI)**
 - IM and BI of both the project and of the applicant must be addressed in each component (tell your letter writers!)



Sample GRFP Research Statement: 2 pages max

Understanding the Effects of ***** on *****

Keywords: Humpty, Dumpty, S.O.T. Wall

Introduction xxx is a major, even ubiquitous social problem. Precisely for that reason, researchers have dedicated significant resources to identifying the causes and consequences of this problem. Previous literature demonstrates the benefits of ..., such as providing corrective feedback1 and preventing ..., as well as the benefits of However, we know little about In this project, I incorporate/examine..... Empirically, this study's main intellectual merit lies in.....

Theoretical Scope Much of the research regarding ... has examined Previous research finds that Research also shows that ... Traditionally, research on fillintheblank and S.O.T. Wall has been conducted from the standpoint of ...[some other set of theories or methods]. Little work has addressed these phenomena in... this setting. My project is an extension of the literature on S.O.T. Wall theorizes that My study conceptualizes..... Builds on extant theories/concepts....in terms of theory, this study's main intellectual merit lies in.....

Research Questions 1. How does race/gender/soil temperature... influence [dependent variable or key concept tested] 2. How does [some other dynamic or phenomenon] affect/mediate/moderate the relationship between gender/race/social temperature and [your outcome of interest]?

Hypotheses 1.2.3.....

Methods I plan to conduct a comparative ethnography/collect survey data/interview xx individuals... for my project. I will conduct a stratified random sample of using ..., a comprehensive national database containing aggregate information about ... I will in order to study how moderates the relationship between My survey, which I will distribute to ..., will include questions about ...and ask respondents to indicate their level of agreement on a Likert Scale. I will use

Upon completing and transcribing interviews, I will use coding software (...XYZ software) to perform open and focused coding. Coding and analyzing the interview data will allow me to ... Quantitative data analyses will involve ...[estimation procedures] best suited for the outcome under investigation (using XYZ software)/ Methodologically, this study's main intellectual merit lies in.....

Anticipated Results In addition to highlighting the effects of ...soil temperature on [phenomenon of interest], ... data collected will address the long-term consequences of inequalities in Preliminary data collected/analyzed to date/obtained as part of my advisor's larger study described above suggests ... This informs extant research on fillintheblank and S.O.T. Wall, conducted from the standpoint of ...[some other set of theories or methods].

Intellectual Merit: [summarize the project's IM here: how will your study inform and push forward your scientific field? Does it play an important role in replication? Innovation? Explain.]

In preparation for this multi-year study, I will receive exceptional training from some of the leading experts (e.g., Joan of Arc, Nero, Napoleon) in quantitative methods (Adam, Eve, and t...). Additionally, an upcoming research assistantship will train me in ... methods of data collection and analysis. In sum, the resources available to me will prepare me to produce

Broader Impacts: [summarize the project's broader impacts here: how will your study inform stakeholders and practices outside of your scientific field? Does it play an important role in community interventions? Policies? Public discourse? Explain.]

I plan to publish my findings in scholarly journals and present at national and regional conferences. I also plan to write policy-related papers that would be useful for government organizations, such as the My findings will also be relevant to private sector organizations. Specifically, my research will provide recommendations for effective policies that encourage constructive feedback from Such policies mitigate As an instructor of undergraduate classes, I can teach the problematic nature of In my teaching, I can encourage future to help promote the adoption of gender-inclusive policies, which will provide lasting benefits for .. Various stakeholder groups. In doing so, my research will inform future Lastly, I will hire underrepresented students as assistants to help with data analysis, transcription, and coding. This will provide historically disadvantaged students with the opportunity to develop as researchers and sociologists.

References [not required but a few are the smart thing to do] [1], [2] [3] ...[10]



Sample GRFP Personal Statement: 3 pages max

Personal Statement and Previous Research

Previous work/occupational experiences in motivate my intellectual interest in As a freshman, at ACME University, I initially planned to do/had no clue. However, onecaught my attention. I first became aware ofThis experience made, I began to explore the research on, coupled with my broader interest in ... and inequalities, informed my decision to apply for graduate study in

Now, as a graduate student in the Department of, working with a research team/lab led by Dr. ... I am conducting research/learning how to This places me in a prime position to conduct impactful research on

Baccalaureate Research and Training: NAME OF UNIVERSITY (years)

At my undergraduate university, I began working on research projects in early in my academic career. I conducted both independent and collaborative research projects, all of which involved survey design and primary data collection. Working on these projects provided me with valuable experiences that have helped me mature as a researcher and methodologist. ... (describe how).... Focusing on xxx topic, my first empirical research project involved designing a survey (N=125) that allowed us to study

I conducted a pilot study using a preliminary version of the survey, in which I solicited feedback from participants regarding the clarity of questions. This allowed us to refine the instrument that was ultimately used for final data collection. I also conducted all of the quantitative data analysis for our study. This included performinganalyses and chi-squared tests. I created visual representations for aggregate data, such as contingency tables and regression scatterplots. Additionally, I contributed to the literature review and theoretical framing of our final paper. Our findings were consistent with our hypotheses; we found that ...

The second undergraduate research project in which I was engaged dealt with... (describe project empirically and in terms of its scientific merit) ...

Graduate Research and Training: NAME OF UNIVERSITY, if applicable.

My current research project examines ... [describe project empirically and in terms of its scientific merit] ...

Intellectual Merit: [describe your own IM here] ... My academic record is a testament to my dedication to scholarly research. I have shown the ability to formulate research questions and implement effective research methodologies to answer those questions. Particularly, I have demonstrated my adeptness in survey design and quantitative data analysis. Importantly, my academic history is evidence of my ability to work both independently and collaboratively on scholarly research. I have continued to immerse myself in literature, which increased my familiarity with substantive areas such as organizational sociology and gender. As I continue as a graduate student, I am in a competitive position to receive training from renowned ..., which will aid me in conducting research examining fillintheblank.

Broader Impacts:[describe your own BI here] ... I have consistently demonstrated my commitment to understanding I will continue this commitment during my fellowship years in several ways. First, I will provide underprivileged students with the opportunity to work as research assistants. After graduating from college and before beginning my graduate study, I worked as an academic tutor for underprivileged in This experience made apparent to me that all students have the capacity to succeed when provided with the right opportunities. This understanding drives my desire to encourage my students and provide them with the opportunities that will help them to develop as researchers and scholars. Second, I will disseminate my findings to research groups and advocates for

For instance, my findings will be of particular relevance to the research initiative focused on

My research will also be of use for national advocacy groups including the

By disseminating my findings to organizations that actively seek to, my research has the potential to provide a realizable increase in the quality

will advance the field by bolstering our understanding of

Little work has addressed ...', particularly as it relates As such, my research would also contribute to the literature on the

In addition to publication in scholarly journals and presentations at national and regional conferences, I plan to present my findings to private sector organizations. These presentations will provide practical recommendations that encourage feedback from Thus, the presentation of my research to the non-academic community will provide significant benefits for both organizations and employees.

References [1], [2], [3], ...



GRFP Final Submission Tips

- **I recommend:** Draft/save each component in Word, for ease of editing. Upload when ready to submit.
- Familiarize yourself early with the submission process and site: https://www.nsfgrfp.org/applicants/grfp_application_tutorial
- GRFP: You are the PI. Involve your mentor/advisor and the Office of Sponsored Programs early, submission process is complicated.
- Whatever the submission deadline is, YOUR DEADLINE is at least a week earlier; remember your institution might require internal routing!
- If you need Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval, it should be pending at submission.
- Think carefully about data management, archiving and dissemination.
- Monitor the progress of your proposal through the GRFP site – do not contact program directors to that end.



GRFP Merit Review Process

- Interdisciplinary panel reviews proposals from smaller fields (e.g., Sociology, Geography, Urban Planning).
- Larger fields (e.g., chemistry, biology) have their own review panels.
- Typically 3 panel reviewers; no ad hoc reviewers.
- Assigned as specialists and generalists in the field.
- Panelists submit written evals/scores before (virtual) panel meeting.
- Full panel meets, small groups discuss the merits of and assign individual scores to each proposal, make recommendations to full panel, program officers.
- Usually, recommendations are in 3 groups: Fund, “Bubble”, Do Not Fund. The candidates on the bubble are revisited. Panelists can flag proposals.
- Program officers take funding recommendations into account when making final recommendations.
- Track the status of your application on the GRFP program site (do not contact program officers).
- **Grad students: If you don't succeed, seek alternate funding source.**



END OF DAY ONE

SEE YOU TOMORROW!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0G383538qzQ>



DAY TWO

LET'S GET CRACKING'!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EaxhwO9iwmA>



A. Hands-On Session with Students

All participants are expected to present their project idea verbally to the group - in 3 minutes or less: Sketch your Research Question, Methods, Intellectual Merit, Broader Impacts.

Students who provided me with a 1-page Project Summary prior to this workshop will get a second round of feedback on their oral presentations from me and engage in Q&A with peers.

Students who were not able to do so will get feedback and Q&A on the spot.

8:00AM-9:30AM



BREAK AGAIN ... time to exhale

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I_p1S_NrnT0



B. Peers on the Panel – Your Experts!

Organized by the Department of Sociology

9:30AM-10:30AM



ONE FINAL BREAK

**..in the hope that you will find a funding opportunity that
you feel about this strongly...**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9wNPug7h1gQ>



C. Plenty Of Fish In The Sea

SAMPLE OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOCIOLOGISTS



11:00AM-12:30PM



Federal Funding Opportunities: Sociology Graduate Students At Large

CDC Centers for Disease Control *No citizenship required.*

<https://www.cdc.gov/fellowships/> Funding and eligibility criteria vary. Broad range of areas include, e.g., statistics, public health, epidemiology, policy, health economics

NIH (R36 Dissertation Grants) *Must be US citizen or PR.*

<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/par-18-894.html> (mental health). \$ varies, pegged to predoctoral stipend levels plus dissertation-related research costs.

USDA (National Needs Fellowship Grants) *your institution nominates you. No citizenship required.*

<https://nifa.usda.gov/program/national-needs-graduate-and-postgraduate-fellowship-grants-program-funding-opportunity-nnf>; stipend & tuition; also has excellent post-doc opportunities

EPA Fellowships *Must be US citizen. (GRIP fellowship program on hold; internship program active)*

<https://www.epa.gov/research-fellowships>; severely curtailed in recent years. EPA also partners to advertise fellowships: <https://www.epa.gov/careers/research-fellowships-and-scholarships#asph>

Department of Defense Fellowships *Must be US citizen.*

<https://www.ndsegfellowships.org/> and <http://ndseg.sysplus.com/> 3 years of funding in cog/behav sciences; stipend, tuition, health ins.

Department of Energy Programs *Must be US citizen/PR.*

<http://orise.oraui.gov/science-education/internships-scholarships-fellowships/default.aspx> plus <https://science.osti.gov/wdts/scgsr> and <http://science.energy.gov/wdts/> for undergraduates!

HUD Grants \$15k grants to ~15 awardees/yr; good for policy-relevant studies. *No citizenship required.*

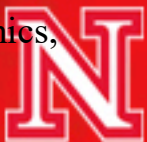
<http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/programdescription/ddrg>

Department of State + Dept of Education = Fulbright-Hays Fellowships *Must be US citizen.*

<http://eca.state.gov/fulbright/fulbright-programs/program-summaries/fulbright-hays-program>

US Census Bureau Fellowships *Must be US citizen.* 10 fellowships, up to 50k; projects in statistics, economics, demography. <https://www.census.gov/srd/DissertationFellowship.pdf>

EPSCOR <http://www.scepscoridea.org/> and <http://www.scepscoridea.org/documents/Vision2025.pdf>



Sample Funding Opportunities: (Sociology of Education) Graduate Students

These three major governmental entities maintain complex funding opportunities – talk to your mentors before you decide to get lost in the weeds as these target faculty PIs/teams...

National Science Foundation/NSF's EHR Directorate

<https://www.nsf.gov/funding/programs.jsp?org=EHR>

U.S. Department of Education – Institute for Education Sciences/IES

<https://ies.ed.gov/funding/>

National Institutes of Health/National Institute of Child Health & Human Development/NICHHD

<https://www.nichd.nih.gov/grants-contracts/FOAs-notice>

Professional organizations and foundations provide excellent funding opportunities, too:

AERA Dissertation Grants

<https://www.aera.net/Professional-Opportunities-Funding/AERA-Funding-Opportunities/Grants-Program/Dissertation-Grants>

<http://www.aera.net/Professional-Opportunities-Funding/AERA-Funding-Opportunities/AERA-MET-Dissertation-Fellowship>

<http://www.aera.net/Professional-Opportunities-Funding/AERA-Funding-Opportunities/Minority-Dissertation-Fellowship-Program>

<http://www.aera.net/Professional-Opportunities-Funding/AERA-Funding-Opportunities/Grants-Program> (also check other professional associations for seed grant programs)

NAEd/Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellowships

https://www.spencer.org/grant_types/dissertation-fellowship No citizenship requirement.

<https://www.spencer.org/why-we-grant> (additional funding programs)



Sample Funding Opportunities: Methodology Graduate Students

NSF Mathematical Sciences Postdoctoral Research Fellowships (MSPRF)

https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5301; ~ \$ 150k per award; *must be US citizen/PR*

NSF SBE DRIG in Methods, Measurement & Statistics Program (MMS)

https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?WT.z_pims_id=5421&ods_key=nsf19575;

\$ 18k max, *no citizenship requirement*

US Census Bureau Fellowships

<https://www.census.gov/srd/DissertationFellowship.pdf>; up to \$ 50k per award; *Must be US citizen*

Department of Energy Computational Science Graduate Fellowship

<https://www.krellinst.org/csgf/>; \$ 38k per award; *must be US citizen/PR*

American Statistical Association's Gertrude Cox Scholarship and Wray Jackson Smith Scholarship

(for comprehensive list visit <https://www.amstat.org/ASA/Your-Career/External-Funding-Sources.aspx>)

<https://www.amstat.org/ASA/Your-Career/Awards/Gertrude-M-Cox-Scholarship.aspx>

For women in graduate school, entering statistical professions

<https://www.amstat.org/ASA/Your-Career/Awards/Government-Statistics-Section-Wray-Jackson-Smith-Scholarship.aspx>

For graduate students interested in a career involving the use of government statistics

Each is \$1k, great portfolio building blocks); no citizenship requirement



(Sample of) Additional Sources: Private Foundations

Excellent source of funding, make sure you understand the funding entity's mission, which is key to your successful application!

Guggenheim Foundation Dissertation and Postdoctoral Grants

<https://www.hfg.org/df/guidelines.htm> \$25k for dissertation fellowships; 15-40k for research grants/post-docs; Frequently focus on topics related to violence, conflict, aggression. *No citizenship requirement.*

National Organization of Gay & Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals

<https://www.noglstp.org/programs-projects/scholarships/> academic scholarships including to graduate students in the sciences broadly defined. *No citizenship requirement.*

American Association of University Women (AAUW)

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/fellowships-grants/>. \$20k for American fellowship (dissertation). Other amounts vary by funding mechanism. *No citizenship requirement.*

Institute for Citizens and Scholars (aka Woodrow Wilson Foundation; strong collaboration with Mellon Foundation)

<https://citizensandscholars.org/> various substantive areas, <https://woodrow.org/fellowships/>
<https://woodrow.org/fellowships/womens-studies/>. *No citizenship requirement.*

American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)

<https://www.aaas.org/fellowships> - gateway to multiple sources of support, check it out! *No citizenship requirement.*

Charlotte W. Newcombe Fellowship

<https://woodrow.org/fellowships/newcombe/> Interested in religion, broadly defined? *No citizenship requirement.*

Ford Foundation/National Academies

<https://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/FordFellowships/index.htm> for links to classic graduate student and postdoc funding. *Modified citizenship requirement (citizens, PR, NAI, refugees, DACA).*

[Not to be confused with <https://www.fordfoundation.org/work/investing-in-individuals/international-fellowships-program/> (fellowships, scholarships for highly visible/accomplished leaders (not suitable for dissertation stage), internships (for advanced undergraduates) – main goal is diversity & inclusion, social justice focus). *No citizenship requirement.*]



(Sample of) Postdoctoral Funding Opportunities

Spencer Foundation

<http://www.spencer.org/postdoctoral-fellowships>

Ford Foundation/National Academies

https://sites.nationalacademies.org/PGA/FordFellowships/PGA_171940

William T. Grant Foundation

<http://wtgrantfoundation.org/grants/william-t-grant-scholars-program>

DoE/IES Postdoctoral Research Training in Education Sciences

https://ies.ed.gov/funding/ncer_rfas/postdoc_training.asp

NSF/SBE Postdoctoral Research Fellowships

https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf18584&org=NSF

NSF Mathematical Sciences Postdoctoral Research Fellowships (MSPRF)

<https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2016/nsf16558/nsf16558.pdf>

NSF Career Grants

https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf20525&org=NSF (not for novices)



Thank you.
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