National Science Foundation
Graduate Research Fellowship Program

“Whether or not you reach your goals in life depends entirely on how well you prepare for them and how badly you want them”

-Ronald Erwin McNair, Ph.D.
Session Overview

- Program Description
- Award Information
- Eligibility requirements
- Creative Application preparation
- Application Review Criteria

Sources: nsfgrfp.org & Dr. Robin Walker, University of Missouri

Academic Advancement Programs
6 Proposal Writing Skills

1. Know the funder’s priorities
2. Understand the funding mechanism
3. Follow instructions precisely
4. Address the scoring criteria
5. Read model proposals
6. Collaborate - seek advice & feedback
About the GRFP

- National competition – highly prestigious
- 3 years of support - $138,000 value + opportunities
- Intended for beginning graduate students pursuing a research-based degree
- NSF-supported fields only* (no practice-oriented or health disciplines)
GRFP Eligibility

- U.S. citizens and permanent residents
- Early-career graduate students
- Pursuing research-based MS and PhD
- Science and engineering fields
- Enroll in accredited institution in US by Fall

*Applicants must **self-certify in the application** that they meet the GRFP Eligibility criteria
GRFP Eligibility

Academic Levels

1: Seniors/baccalaureates; no graduate study

2: First-year graduate students

3: Second-year grad students
   ≤ 12 months of graduate study by August

4: >12 months graduate study
   Interruption in graduate study of 2+ years
   (can have MS degree)
GRFP Eligibility

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Only 1 time in
graduate
School, in 1st or
2nd year
GRFP Fields of Study

- Chemistry
- Computer & Information Science/Engineering
- Engineering
- Geosciences
- Life Sciences
- Materials Research
- Mathematical Sciences
- Physics and Astronomy
- Psychology
- Social Sciences
- STEM Education

UCF Academic Advancement Programs
Fields Not Supported by NSF GRFP

- Business Administration or Management
- Social work
- Medical, Dental, Law, or Public Health programs
- Joint science-professional degree programs, e.g., MD/PhD, JD/PhD
- Education (except research-focused STEM Education programs)
- See Solicitation (www.nsfgrfp.org)
“… to select, recognize, and financially support individuals early in their careers with the demonstrated potential to be high achieving scientists and engineers, and to broaden participation in science and engineering of underrepresented groups, including women, minorities, and persons with disabilities, and veterans. GRFP is a critical program in NSF's overall strategy in developing the globally-engaged workforce necessary to ensure the Nation's leadership in advancing science and engineering research and innovation.

Typical GRFP Application Timeline

August
- Solicitation Posted

late Oct – early Nov
- Applications Due

early November
- Reference Letters Due

March - April
- Recipients Announced

May 1
- Acceptance of Award and Declaration of Tenure/Reserve

June 1 or Sept. 1
- Fellowship Year Begins

UCF
Academic Advancement Programs
Five Year Award – $138,000
• Three years of support
  – $34,000 Stipend per year
  – $12,000 Educational Allowance
• International research opportunity: GROW
• Supercomputer access: XSEDE
• Career Life Balance (family leave)
GRFP Unique Features

**Flexible:** choice of project, advisor & program

**Unrestrictive:** Awarded to individual, No service requirement

**Portable:** Any accredited U.S. institution
GRFP Complete Application

NSF FastLane

• Personal, Relevant Background and Future Goals Statement (3 pages)
• Graduate Research Plan Statement (2 pages)
• Transcripts (uploaded electronically)
• Three letters of reference

DEADLINES: late Oct - early November
## NSF GRFP Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th># Applications</th>
<th># Awards</th>
<th>Success</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>14,000</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>16,800</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>12%</td>
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Another 2,000 Honorable Mentions Awarded

*Source: http://www.nsfgrfp.org*
GRFP Resources

NSF GRFP Website (nsf.gov/grfp)
   – Solicitation and links

NSF GRFP FastLane Website (fastlane.nsf.gov/grfp)
   – Application, guides, announcements

GRFP Website (nsfgrfp.org)

Essay Guides & Worksheets
http://grfpessayinsights.missouri.edu/index.php
EMBRACE HIS LEGACY. CREATE YOUR OWN.

UCF McNAIR SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Academic Advancement Programs