

NSF PAPPG Mentoring Plan Update:

NSF PAPPG updated policy states that postdoctoral scholars or graduate students must upload a “Mentoring Plan” in the supplementary documentation section of Research.gov. Mentoring provided to postdoctoral scholars or graduate students supported by the project should be evaluated by the Broader Impacts review criterion. This document should exceed no more than one page and must present the mentoring that will occur for the postdoctoral scholars or graduate students supported by the project. Do not use this to circumvent the 15-page Project Description limitation. The template below is an example, and each plan should be tailored for the proposed project, departments, and research personnel involved. Postdoctoral and graduate students do not need separate plans, but the plan may specify different components of the mentoring plan and how it will be implemented for the two types of researchers. The mentoring plan will ensure the preparation of postdoctoral researchers and graduate students so they may excel in their chosen career paths through providing the skills, knowledge, and experience necessary to do so.

Example Mentoring Plan Template:

Career Counseling includes developing the skills that one needs to excel in a chosen career path. This will be provided by the PI through mentoring on topics such as defining/pursuing career goals and refining a job application, resume, and/or cv.

Preparation Training for Proposals occurs when the PI encourages the researcher to be directly involved in the proposal preparation allowing them to learn vital skills including defining project hypothesis, objectives, approach, construction of work plan, timeline, and budget.

Presentations and Publications will be a natural outcome from the work supported by the grant. Through guidance and by the project’s PIs the postdoctoral scholar or graduate student will receive training in the preparation of manuscripts for scientific journals and presenting work at high caliber national conferences, which will cultivate opportunities for professional networking.

Improving Teaching and Mentoring Skills will be developed through involvement of the researcher within the PI’s research group where interaction with undergraduate and graduate students will be encouraged in group meetings and laboratory trainings

Effective Diverse Collaboration Skills will be a natural result of a focus on collaborations with researchers from diverse disciplinary areas and backgrounds.

Responsible Professional Practices Training should be regularly provided within the context of research and will [could] include laboratory safety, fundamentals of the scientific method, and other professional practice standards.

*Success of a mentoring plan will be assessed through the tracking of the progress of the postdoctoral scholar or graduate student towards their own research and career goals.