



ACADEMY OVERVIEW

The University of Memphis is partnering with McAllister & Quinn to deliver the 2020 NSF CAREER Academy. This program is designed to help prepare faculty to be successful in competing for and securing a prestigious Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Award from the National Science Foundation.

For faculty who interested in applying for the NSF CAREER award in 2020, 2021, or 2022, Academy facilitators will deliver remote training seminars to cover the basics of writing competitive CAREER proposals, discuss key strategies for intellectual merit and broader impacts, examine the NSF peer review process, and make recommendations for developing high-impact, winning proposals.

A select cohort of faculty who will apply for the NSF CAREER award in 2020 will receive supplemental remote coaching through “Small Cohort Office Hours.” Academy facilitators will provide iterative review and feedback of proposal drafts, and participants will receive substantive and tailored feedback from an external reviewer prior to the submission deadline.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Date & Time	Topic
Thursday, April 9, 2020 10:00 -11:15 am CT	<p>REMOTE SEMINAR: NSF CAREER 101, 201</p> <p>Winning the prestigious CAREER award is a particularly distinguishing step in the developing career of an assistant professor. Application failure is usually attributable to not understanding what NSF is trying to create with this award and, therefore, not appreciating how the application must be written. In this webinar, we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an overview of the solicitation and eligibility criteria. • Discuss award trends and profiles of successful applicants. • Help you assess your readiness to apply or re-apply. • Provide tips on how to get started, including contacting program officers. • Discuss proposal management tools and best practices for writing.
Monday, April 13, 2020 By 3:00 pm CT	<p>DUE: Preliminary proposals for feedback</p> <p>Small cohort submits preliminary proposals and project descriptions for facilitators’ review and feedback</p>
April 13-17, 2020	<p>Facilitators’ planning sessions</p>
Tuesday, April 21, 2020 11:00 am – 12:00 pm CT	<p>Small Cohort Office Hours</p> <p>Facilitators lead a roundtable discussion with the Small Cohort, where we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss high level feedback on cohort’s preliminary project summaries, descriptions. • Provide tips and recommendations for resubmissions. • Discuss your CAREER proposal timeline and proposal management techniques. • Respond to questions.

Date & Time	Topic
Tuesday, April 28, 2020 11:30 am – 12:45 pm CT	<p>REMOTE SEMINAR: Competitive CAREER Education Plans and Broader Impacts</p> <p>Co-Presenter: Stephanie Ivey, Associate Dean for Research, Herff College of Engineering; and Professor, Civil Engineering</p> <p>All CAREER proposals must describe an integrated path that will lead to a successful career as an outstanding researcher <u>and</u> educator. Unlike other NSF funding programs, applicants are further challenged to demonstrate how their academic careers will be dedicated to stimulating a discovery process in which research is enhanced by inspired teaching, enthusiastic learning, and disseminating new knowledge. In this webinar, we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take a deep dive into NSF’s expectations for integrating research and education. • Discuss the similarities and differences between your NSF CAREER Education Plan and your proposed Broader Impacts r. • Discuss how to prepare to be an effective researcher-educator. • Review internal resources for building your education plan and broader impacts. • Provide guidance on how to write competitive, integrated research and education plans.
Thursday, April 30, 2020 By 3:00 pm CT	<p>DUE: DRAFT 1 proposals for feedback</p> <p>Small cohort submits DRAFT 1 proposals for facilitators’ review and feedback.</p>
Monday, May 4, 2020 11:00 am – 12:00 pm CT	<p>Small Cohort Office Hours</p> <p>Facilitators lead a roundtable discussion with the Small Cohort, where we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss high level feedback on DRAFT 1, with a focus on how well you have presented an integrated research and education plan. • Provide tips and recommendations for subsequent drafts. • Discuss facilitators and barriers to managing your CAREER proposal and timeline. • Respond to questions.
Monday, May 11, 2020 12:00 – 1:15 pm CT	<p>REMOTE SEMINAR: Competitive “Other Required Documents”</p> <p>Competitive NSF CAREER applications do not rely solely on the strength of the Project Description. NSF requires extensive evidence of your fit for the CAREER program and your ability to carry out the proposed research and education plan, as demonstrated in a number of additional documents. In this webinar, we will discuss how to develop competitive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results from prior research descriptions; • Postdoc mentoring plans; • Biosketches; • Facilities, Equipment, and Other Resources descriptions; • Departmental Letters; and • Letters of Collaboration.

Date & Time	Topic
Thursday, May 14, 2020 By 3:00 pm CT	<p>DUE: DRAFT 2 proposals for feedback</p> <p>Small cohort submits DRAFT 2 proposals for facilitators' review and feedback.</p>
Monday, May 18, 2020 11:00 am – 12:00 pm CT	<p>Small Cohort Office Hours</p> <p>Facilitators lead a roundtable discussion with the Small Cohort, where we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss high level feedback on DRAFT 2, with a focus on overall cohesiveness of the application. • Discuss competitive writing style and storytelling. • Provide tips and recommendations for subsequent drafts. • Discuss facilitators and barriers to managing your CAREER proposal and timeline. • Respond to questions.
Wednesday, May 27, 2020 11:00 am – 12:15 pm CT	<p>REMOTE SEMINAR: Competitive Budgets & Understanding NSF CAREER Merit Review</p> <p>Co-Presenter: TBD</p> <p>Unlike most other grant programs, the NSF CAREER Award solicitation states that you must request a MINIMUM budget. With seemingly limitless funding (<i>Is it really limitless?</i>), applicants often struggle with how to develop a budget. Lack of understanding about the NSF Merit Review process is a further challenge to making a compelling proposal. In this webinar, we will discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing competitive CAREER project budgets. • The Merit Review Process and how your proposal will be evaluated. • Final considerations and recommendations for your proposal.
Monday, June 1, 2020 11:00 am – 12:00 pm CT	<p>Small Cohort Office Hours</p> <p>Facilitators lead a roundtable discussion with the Small Cohort, where we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss your project budget and justification. • Discuss how to understand reviewer critique, and decide how to incorporate reviewer feedback. • Prepare for the Red Team Review. • Discuss facilitators and barriers to managing your CAREER proposal and timeline. • Respond to questions.
Monday, June 8, 2020 By 3:00 pm CT	<p>DUE: DRAFT 3 for Red Team Review</p> <p>Small cohort submits DRAFT 3 proposals for Red team review and feedback. Red Team will evaluate proposal, identify strengths and weaknesses, and make suggestions for revisions.</p>
Tuesday, June 16, 2020	Red Team Review feedback returned

Date & Time	Topic
Monday, June 22, 2020 11:00 am - 12:00 pm CT	Small Cohort Office Hours Facilitators lead a roundtable discussion with the Small Cohort, where we will: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss Red Team Reviewer feedback and how to interpret their findings.• Discuss if/how to address critiques.• Prepare for final draft.
Monday, July 27, 2020	CAREER applications due to NSF