



Faculty Research Development Academy

The Academy is an initiative by the South Carolina EPSCoR Program designed to empower faculty members from primarily undergraduate institutions and historically black colleges and universities across South Carolina to pursue external funding from any NSF program (related to research, education, workforce development, etc.). The overarching goal of the Academy is to equip participating faculty members with the necessary skills and resources to enhance their research productivity and competitiveness in securing external funding. This will not only bolster their individual competitiveness but also contribute to the overall productivity and student engagement at our academic institutions.

By offering a comprehensive curriculum in a hybrid learning format (virtual and in-person) during the summer, the program aims to foster a culture of research excellence and innovation within our academic community. At the end of the program, we expect participating faculty members will emerge as effective proposal writers.

Program Overview: The Academy features a structured curriculum encompassing various aspects of proposal development. Through a series of interactive sessions led by experts, participants will delve into topics such as writing compelling proposals, engaging with NSF program officers, developing a competitive project description, budgeting, and more. Additionally, the program will provide proposal editing and proposal review services and a stipend to each participant who completes the program.

The program will be conducted in ten two-hour sessions on Fridays from May 23 to August 1, 2025. Virtual sessions will be from 10 AM to Noon. *Attendance at all sessions is required.* A preliminary schedule is attached. Sessions will be led by experts in proposal preparation and proposal review and include a presentation by an NSF program officer. In addition, one of the two in-person sessions involves a panel of experts.

Anticipated Product: A complete proposal by each participant for submission to NSF. Each participant will receive a \$2,000 stipend after their proposal is successfully submitted to NSF.

Application Deadline: By 5 PM on Tuesday, March 25, 2025.

Application Process: Applications must be submitted by the faculty applicant using the following link: <https://scepscor.org/faculty-research-academy-application-form/>. Applications include:

1. Contact information
2. CV in NSF format (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv/>) of the faculty member applicant.
3. PDF of the NSF solicitation that will be pursued
4. Brief Project Description (not to exceed five pages. Do not count the list of references as part of the five pages): Each applicant must submit a brief project statement not to exceed five pages. The statement must include the following under separate headings:
 - a. Project Overview (Briefly describe what you plan to do.)

- b. Motivation/significance of project (Why is this project important?)
 - c. Background (What has been done – i.e., literature review)
 - d. Preliminary Work (Describe preliminary work done by the applicant, if any.)
 - e. Plan and Methodology (Explain how the work will be done - e.g., methods, experiments, data collection, training, etc. as appropriate, etc.)
 - f. Potential outcomes. (If successful, what are the benefits of the project to advancing knowledge, benefits to society, etc.?)
 - g. List of references. (Not part of the five-page limit)
5. Institutional Support Letter: A statement of support from the institution (Dean or Provost) indicating what type of support they are willing to provide to the faculty member for participating in this program (e.g., financial, travel support to in person sessions, other).
6. Institutional Commitment to Research/Scholarship: The institution must also show evidence of commitment to research (letter from provost detailing how research and scholarship are used in the faculty evaluation/tenure process, copy of strategic plan highlighting the institution's research and scholarship goals, etc.)