

The SC EPSCoR Faculty Research Development Academy

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. Who can apply to participate in the Academy?

A1. Only tenured and tenure-track faculty can apply.

Q2. I'm an administrator with a faculty rank, can I apply?

A2. Yes. If the answer to the previous question also applies.

Q3. If I plan to apply for an NSF workforce development grant, do I qualify?

A3. Yes. Application to any NSF solicitation is acceptable.

Q4. The submission deadline for my proposal is before the end of the summer program. Do I qualify for admission into the program.

A4. No. Proposal submission deadline must be after the end of the program. Preferably no earlier than September 2025 to allow time for at least the editorial review.

Q5. I plan to have a collaborator on my proposal, should my collaborator also apply?

A5. It depends on the solicitation you are pursuing. If the funding opportunity is of significant scope, then a collaborator's application may be suitable. This will be decided on a case-by-case basis. However, the applications should be explicit about the collaboration. If in doubt, please email nadim.aziz@scra.org for clarification.

Q6. Is there a limit on how many applicants will be admitted to the program?

A6. The admission criteria are based on the quality of the applications. Also, we are limiting this year's program to less than 15 faculty members.

Q7. Is there a limit on how many applicants from a given institution will be admitted?

A7. No. It is possible that more than one faculty member can be admitted. In the 2025 cohorts we had 12 participants from 7 institutions.

Q8. Who decides which applicants will be admitted?

A8. Select members of the SC EPSCoR State Committee and faculty will review the applications and make admission recommendations to the SC EPSCoR Director.

Q9. What if my institution's administration does not give me the letters of support and commitment to research, can I still be admitted?

A9. No. We need institutional confirmation that research is part of their strategy.

Q10. When will I hear about whether I have been accepted for the Program?

A10. Review of applications will begin immediately after the application submission deadline. We will try to notify applicants with the decision as soon as possible.

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Q11. When do I get the \$2,000 stipend?

A11. The stipend will be paid through the SC EPSCoR Office after the completion of the program. Completion of the program means attending the classes, completing the weekly assignments, completing the full proposal including addressing editorial and review comments, and successfully submitting the proposal to NSF.

Q12. What if I miss a class, what happens?

A12. Absence must be based on a legitimate reason. Regardless of absence, missed work must be completed in a timely manner.

Q13. What type of assignments should we expect as part of the Program?

A13. All assignments will be related to building parts of the proposal. In other words, at the end of the program, these assignments will form the full proposal. All assignments will be assessed and returned to you with comments.

Q14. Do I have to attend the in-person meetings in Columbia?

A14. Yes. We are using consultants for this purpose and your attendance is mandatory. One of the two in-person meetings is for you to present to a panel of expert your project idea.

Q15. Who pays for my travel to the in-person meetings in Columbia?

A15. The SC EPSCoR will not cover travel (mileage) expenses. They may be covered by you or by your institution. However, SC EPSCoR will provide meals and refreshments during the in-person sessions.

Q16. Will my proposal be reviewed after the summer program is completed?

A16. Yes. All proposals will be edited and reviewed by at least an editor, and if time permits, by an expert in the general field of the proposal.

Q17. Regarding editing services, when will my proposal be reviewed by an editor?

A17. As soon as a participant completes the full proposal.