



NSF REVISES MERIT REVIEW CRITERIA

NSF released a revised Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG) on October 4, 2012, which incorporates significant revisions to the NSF merit review criteria of *Intellectual Merit* and *Broader Impacts*.

These revisions are effective for proposals submitted or due on or after January 14, 2013.

For additional resources visit the Merit Review Revisions resource page at: http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/merit_review/resources.jsp

NSB Report on Merit Review Criteria - Conclusions

- The *Intellectual Merit* and *Broader Impacts* review criteria together capture the important elements that should guide the evaluation of NSF proposals;
- A set of three Merit Review Principles should be given due diligence by Principal Investigators and reviewers;
- A set of five Merit Review Elements should be considered in the review of both criteria.

Changes to the Proposal Process

- Project Summary will contain the following required separate statements
 - Overview of the Project
 - Statement on *Intellectual Merit*
 - Statement on *Broader Impacts*
- Project Description must contain a separate section with a discussion of the *Broader Impacts*
- Proposing organizations must certify that organizational support will be made available as described in the proposal to address the *Broader Impacts* and *Intellectual Merit* activities.
- Annual and Final Reports must address activities related to the *Broader Impacts* criterion that are not intrinsic to the research.

IMPORTANT LINKS:

National Science Foundation
www.nsf.gov

Division of Institution and
Award Support
www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias

Policy Office
www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy

NSF Proposal & Award Policies
and Procedures Guide
www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=papp

NSF Merit Review Website
www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/merit_review/

Revisions to Merit Review
Resources
http://www.nsf.gov/bfa/dias/policy/merit_review/resources.jsp

Questions may be directed to the
Policy Office at NSF

Email: policy@nsf.gov
Phone: (703) 292-8243

