



NSF Mentoring Guidelines

Example resources directly from Council of Graduate Schools and the National Science Foundation in June 2024.

<https://cgsnet.org/webinar/workshop-nsfs-new-mentoring-requirements-for-graduate-students>

<https://new.nsf.gov/policies/pappg/24-1/ch-2-proposal-preparation#ch2D2i-i>

Below you will find content relating to the National Science Foundation's new mentoring guidelines, as summarized by the Council of Graduate Schools and the NSF.

NSF Mentoring Plan

From the [National Science Foundation's Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide](#):

"Mentoring Plan"^[37]. Pursuant to Section 7008(a) of the America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science (42 U.S.C. § 1862o(a)), each proposal^[38] that requests funding to support postdoctoral scholars^[39] or graduate students must upload under "Mentoring Plan" in the supplementary documentation section of Research.gov, a description of the mentoring activities that will be provided for such individuals. In no more than one page, the mentoring plan must describe the mentoring that will be provided to all postdoctoral scholars or graduate students supported by the project, regardless of whether they reside at the submitting organization, any subrecipient organization, or at any organization participating in a simultaneously submitted collaborative proposal. Please note that separate plans are not required for postdoctoral scholars or graduate students. The plan may, however, specify how different components of the mentoring program will be enacted for the two types of researchers. Proposers are advised that the mentoring plan must not be used to circumvent the 15-page Project Description limitation. See

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Chapter II.E.3 for additional information on collaborative proposals. Mentoring activities provided to postdoctoral scholars or graduate students supported on the project will be evaluated under the Broader Impacts review criterion. Note see also Chapter VII.B. for information on requirements regarding Individual Development Plans for postdoctoral scholars or graduate students.

Examples of mentoring activities include but are not limited to: career counseling; training in preparation of proposals, publications and presentations; guidance on ways to improve teaching and mentoring skills; guidance on how to effectively collaborate with researchers from diverse backgrounds and disciplinary areas; and training in responsible professional practices.”

Webinar Link

Watch the Council of Graduate Schools’ webinar titled, *NSF’s New Mentoring Requirements for Graduate Students*:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_s5-qFrkc4&t=9s

Presentation Slides

The presentation slides below are from the Council of Graduate Schools’ webinar titled: *NSF’s New Mentoring Requirements for Graduate Students*.

Additional information on this webinar can be found here:

<https://cgsnet.org/webinar/workshop-nsfs-new-mentoring-requirements-for-graduate-students>



MENTORING PLANS AND IDPs

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Mentoring Plans – Update to NSF 24-1

- **Chapter II.D.2.i(I), Mentoring Plan**, has been expanded to address the revision to Section 7008(a) of the America COMPETES Act of 2022 (42 U.S.C. § 1862o(a)) requiring a mentoring plan for postdoctoral researchers or graduate students supported on the project. This page limitation for the Mentoring Plan remains one page.



Mentoring Plans – NSF 24-1

- Submitted as component of proposal;
- No more than one page;
- Must describe mentoring to be provided to all postdoctoral scholars or graduate students supported by project;
- Separate plans not required for postdoctoral scholars or graduate students; plan may specify how different components will be enacted for the two types of researchers.

Examples include, but are not limited to, careers, proposal preparation, publications, presentations, teaching, mentoring, collaborating in diverse teams, and responsible professional practices.



Individual Development Plans – Update to NSF 24-1

- **Chapter VII.B.7, Individual Development Plans for Postdoctoral Scholars or Graduate Students**, implements Section 10313 (42 U.S.C. § 18993) of the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 requirement for postdoctoral scholars or graduate students who receive substantial NSF support must have an Individual Development Plan which is required to be updated annually.



Individual Development Plans – NSF 24-1

- Each postdoctoral scholar and graduate student receiving substantial support from an NSF award must have an Individual Development Plan;
- Must be updated annually;
- Certification by PI required in annual and final annual reports (PAPPG VII.D.1.b(iv)).

IDPs map the educational goals, career exploration, and professional development of the individual.



Implementation Details

Q: How is “substantial support” defined?

A: 1 person-month per year

Q: What does this mean in practice?

A: Any graduate student who is supported for more than about

- i. ~1/2 semester at “full” support associated with 20 hrs/wk commitment
- ii. ~1 semester at “half” support associated with 10 hrs/wk commitment



Support Notes

- Support may be in form of stipend and/or tuition, as governed by 2 CFR § 200.466¹ (Uniform Guidance) and institutional policies.
- Graduate student support is intended to provide support for students who are pursuing a degree. Time commitment required for educational pursuits (e.g., courses, research project) are normally ***in addition*** to the time committed to the institution in return for support provided.

¹. <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-2/subtitle-A/chapter-II/part-200?toc=1>

