

NIGMS Research Education Programs (R25):

**Courses, Curriculum &
Methods ([PA-27-034](#))**

**Mentoring Activities &
Networks ([PA-27-035](#))**

September 2026

Disclaimer

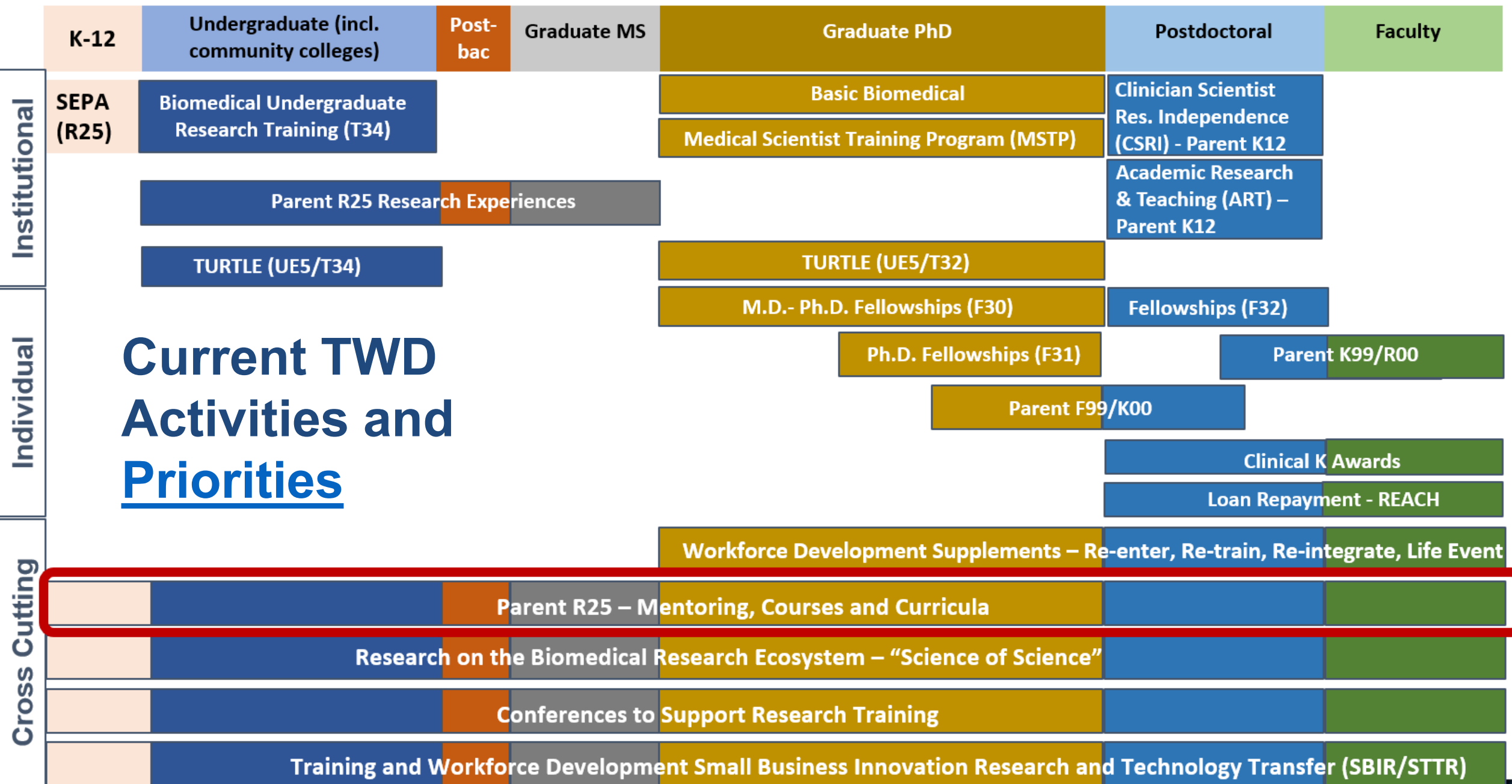
- This presentation and accompanying slides are for informational purposes only.
- They serve as an overview and are not meant to be comprehensive in coverage of all required components of an application.
- For any submission, applicants are responsible for following instructions detailed in:
 - [How to Apply - Application Guide](#)
 - The Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), and
 - Any Related Notices (see [Policy Change Notices](#))

Each NOFO has unique requirements – please read and follow them closely, and reach out to [NIGMS staff](#) with questions

Outline

- NIGMS Research Education Programs
 - Courses, Curriculum, & Methods
 - Mentoring Activities & Networks
- Eligibility and Key Dates
- Highlights of the Application Components
- Budget Overview
- Peer Review Overview
- General Tips and Advice

NIGMS Research Education Programs



NIH Research Education Program Goals

- Support educational activities that complement and/or enhance training of a workforce to meet the nation's biomedical, behavioral and clinical research needs;
- Help recruit individuals with specific specialty or disciplinary backgrounds to research careers in biomedical, behavioral and clinical sciences; and
- Foster a better understanding of biomedical, behavioral and clinical research and its implications.

NIGMS Parent R25 Programs

Program	NOFO	Contact Email
NIH Research Education Program - Courses, Curriculum & Methods	PA-27-034	NIGMSR25courses@nih.gov
NIH Research Educational Program - Mentoring Activities & Networks (Parent R25/UE5 - Clinical Trial Not Allowed)	PA-27-035	NIGMSR25mentoring@nih.gov
NIH Research Education Program - Research Experiences	PA-27-036	NIGMSR25research@nih.gov

NIGMS Profile Page Shares NIGMS Priorities

Additional Information by Funding Category

Administrative Supplements	+
Conferences and Meetings	+
Individual Career Development	+
Individual Fellowship	+
Institutional Career Development	+
Institutional Training	+
Research Education	+
Small Business	+

<https://grants.nih.gov/funding/find-a-fit-for-your-research/nih-institutes-centers-offices/NIGMS>

Research Education Page Shares all Institute Priorities

National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)	+
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS)	+
National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS)	+
National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)	+
National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)	+
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS)	+
National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)	+
National Library of Medicine (NLM)	+

<https://grants.nih.gov/funding/funding-categories/research-training-and-career-development/research-education/ico-funding-considerations>

NIGMS Research Education Priorities

NIGMS prioritizes programs in a range of scientific fields relevant to its [mission](#) to strengthen **the biomedical research workforce** and support participants who will significantly benefit, including those:

- Without substantial previous research experience,
- From resource-limited institutions, or
- With circumstances that would otherwise prevent them from pursuing biomedical research. For example:
 - Financial hardship
 - Return from military service
 - Career delay or change
 - Family responsibilities

NIGMS Research Education Priorities (continued)

To promote broad geographic and organizational participation in rigorous research education programs, NIGMS strongly encourages applications from:

- Institutions in [IDeA-eligible states](#)
- [HBCUs](#)
- Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), as defined under 25 U.S.C. 1603 (24).
- Resource-limited institutions, including those that do not have NIH institutional training programs.

NIGMS Research Education Interest Areas

- NIGMS prioritizes programs in a range of scientific fields relevant to its [mission](#).
- Program activities may focus on individuals at a particular career stage or at a range of stages, from undergraduate to professional (for example faculty, staff scientists).
- Programs should have broad reach with national (or regional, when appropriate) recruitment
- Programs that recruit participants from a single organization or focus on a single discipline – especially those in the mission of other ICs – will be low priority for funding.

Interest Areas for Courses

- In-person or virtual courses to equip participants with skills required for careers in the biomedical research workforce.
- For example, courses where participants develop:
 - **Technical skills:** appropriate and safe research methods, new technologies, quantitative/computational approaches, pedagogy
 - **Operational skills:** independent knowledge acquisition, rigorous experimental design, data interpretation
 - **Professional skills:** management, leadership, communication, teamwork/collaboration, mentoring, career navigation, outreach

Interest Areas for Curriculum & Methods

- Programs that develop and disseminate innovative curricular or instructional approaches to improve biomedical research education at multiple secondary or postsecondary organizations.
- For example, activities where participants:
 - Develop or enhance curriculum, methods, novel instructional approaches, or computer-based tools.

Interest Areas for Mentoring Activities & Networks (R25)

- Address critical biomedical research workforce needs as part of a formal mentoring structure.
- For example, activities where:
 - Participants are trained as mentors
 - Participants receive advice, insight, and professional career skills training appropriate to their career stage as part of a mentoring network or similar formal mentoring structure.

Interest Areas for Mentoring Activities & Networks (UE5)

- Equip cohorts of NIGMS-supported career awardees with the networks and professional skills to successfully transition to independent research careers (typically using UE5 cooperative agreements).
- Awards should focus on a single career stage:
 - Predoctoral-to-postdoctoral (F99/K00),
 - Postdoctoral-to-faculty (K99/R00), or
 - Supporting postdoctoral/early career clinician scientists to research independence (K08 or K23).

Eligibility and Key Dates

Eligibility Overview

(See Section III of NOFO)

Organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Many types of organizations are eligible.• Eligibility is not limited based on institutional NIH funding.• Multiple organizations may partner to submit one application.
Principal Investigator	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The PI should have appropriate expertise to provide both administrative and scientific leadership.• Multiple PIs are encouraged – at least one with record of rigorous biomedical research.
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Applicant organization selects and establishes qualifications, consistent with applicable law.• US Citizen or Permanent Resident.

Key Program Dates (2026 - 2027)

Application Due Date	Application Review	Advisory Council	Earliest Start Date*
September 25, 2026	March 2027	May 2027	July 2027
January 25, 2027	July 2027	August 2027	December 2027
May 25, 2027	November 2027	January 2028	April 2028
September 25, 2027	March 2028	May 2028	July 2028

- **For FY2027 (the September 2026 due date), NIGMS intends to make awards in summer 2027.**
- **For subsequent due dates, NIGMS will prioritize awards for Courses, Curriculum & Methods for January Council, and Mentoring Activities & Networks for May Council.**

Highlights of the Application Components

Follow the Application Guide, NOFO, and Notices

- Use the [How to Apply - Application Guide](#) Research Instructions

Filtered Application Instructions		
R	Research Instructions	Standard instructions that apply to all applications plus research instruction call-out boxes. Activity Codes: Research (R), including Research Education (R25), and equivalent Cooperative Agreements (U) PDF

- Follow the [page limits](#) for **Research Education (R25)** applications
- Instructions in the NOFO supersede the Application Guide.
- Check the NOFO for required items:
 - [Notices](#)
 - Attachments
 - Appendices

Related Notices

- Check for any recent [Notices of NIH Policy Changes](#) that may impact application requirements.

Selected Application Components and Page Limits

Application Components	Page Limit
Project Summary/Abstract	30 lines of text
Project Narrative	3 sentences
Introduction to Resubmission Applications (when applicable)	3 pages
Specific Aims	1 page
Research Education Program Plan	25 pages
Each Biosketch (use SciENcv format)	Length controlled by data entry

For Research Education Applications:

- When required, Plans for Instruction in RCR/Methods for Enhancing Reproducibility are part of the 25-page Research Education program plan and are NOT allowed as separate attachments.

Research Training Program Plan Format

View Burden Statement

PHS 398 Research Plan

OMB Number: 0925-0001
Expiration Date: 09/30/2024

Introduction

1. Introduction to Application
(for Resubmission and Revision applications)

Add AttachmentDelete AttachmentView Attachment

Research Plan Section

2. Specific Aims

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3. *Research Strategy

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4. Progress Report Publication List

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Other Research Plan Section

5. Vertebrate Animals

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6. Select Agent Research

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7. Multiple PD/PI Leadership Plan

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8. Consortium/Contractual Arrangements

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9. Letters of Support

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10. Resource Sharing Plan(s)

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11. Other Plan(s)

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12. Authentication of Key Biological and/or Chemical Resources

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Appendix

13. Appendix

Add AttachmentsDelete AttachmentsView Attachments

Multiple Sections - FOLLOW THE NOFO!
See page limits [here](#).

- ← Specific Aims
- ← Research Strategy – use headers in NOFO
- ← Progress Report Publication List – for renewals only

- ← Multi PD/PI Leadership Plan (if applicable)
- ← Consortium/Contractual Arrangements (if applicable)
- ← Letter of institutional commitment required

- ← Appendix: Not required. follow [How to Apply - Application Guide](#)



Research Education Program Plan

- Proposed Research Education Program
- Program Director/Principal Investigator
- Program Faculty
- Program Participants
- Institutional Environment and Commitment
- Plan for Instruction in Methods to Enhance Reproducibility
- Plan for Instruction in the Responsible Conduct of Research
- Evaluation Plan
- Dissemination Plan

Proposed Research Education Program: General

- Provide the underlying rationale and evidence supporting the need for the program.
 - Describe the gap in biomedical research training the program intends to address.
 - Include literature support & any available baseline data.
- Clearly state the goals and objectives of the proposed research education program and how they address the [priorities of NIGMS](#).
- Provide an overview of the research education program's structure and activities.
- Describe innovative aspects and explain the significance of the program.
- Describe how the research education program will meet the specific needs of the intended participants, and how success of the participants will be monitored.

Proposed Research Education Program: Mentoring Activities & Networks

- Describe how the mentoring activities will meet the specific needs of the intended participants, and the likelihood of improving their knowledge and skills.
- Describe the strategy that will be used to ensure each participant's experience builds upon their current skills and experiences.
- If applicable, explain how participants will be matched with appropriate participating program faculty, and how the success of the participant-faculty match will be evaluated.

Proposed Research Education Program: Courses

- Provide a description of the course content.
- Describe plans to enhance coursework with any hands-on activities, mentoring, or networking opportunities as appropriate.
- Explain how the skills development will contribute to addressing the need for highly trained scientists within the [NIGMS mission](#).

Proposed Research Education Program: Curriculum & Methods

- Describe the educational concepts and principles and basis for the strategy, methodology, and analyses to be employed.
- Describe key milestones of the proposed activities and plans to evaluate the success of the curriculum or methods development program.

Progress Report/ Previous Outcomes

- For Renewal Applications *only*:
 - Include a detailed progress report, describing successes and challenges, need for continued support, lessons learned, and changes to the program.
- For New Applications:
 - Do not include a “Progress Report”
 - However, objectives, outcomes, and lessons learned from previous awards with related goals can still be described in the Research Education Program Plan.
 - If a previous award with related goals was supported by a different program, it is often helpful to submit a new application.

Program Director/ Principal Investigator and Program Faculty

- Provide evidence that the PD(s)/PI(s) has the appropriate expertise and ability to ensure appropriate and timely progress of the program.
- Programs may include additional individuals, such as subject-matter or technical experts, program facilitators, instructors, mentors, etc. Describe recruitment plans and desired qualifications for these program personnel, who may or may not be senior/key personnel.
- **Note that biosketches can only be included for senior/key personnel.** The personal statement should describe relevant educational program experience and commitment to educational training.

Multiple PD/PI Leadership Plan (if applicable)

- Provide strong justification that approach will benefit the program and participants.
- Include designated roles and responsibilities, governance and organizational structure consistent with the aims of the research education program.
- Describe communication plans, decision-making processes, and conflict resolution procedures.
- Highlight complementary expertise of the PD(s)/PI(s).
- Describe an appropriate succession plan for key administrative positions (for example, PD(s)/PI(s)).

Program Participants

- State the educational background and/or career level(s) of the planned participants, and the number of anticipated participants in each segment of program offering(s).
- Provide details about the pool of expected participants in the program and the sources of the applicant pool.
- Describe a recruitment strategy that will reach individuals who may significantly benefit from the program.
- Describe how participants will be selected from the eligible applicant pool. All selection processes must be consistent with applicable laws.

Plans for Instruction in Methods for Enhancing Reproducibility & the Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR)

Depending on the proposed program, these plans may or may not be applicable.

- RCR: [RCR Policy](#) and [Updated Guidance](#)
- Rigor & Reproducibility: [NIH Website on Rigor and Reproducibility](#)

Evaluation Plan

- Include a plan for formative and summative evaluation of the activities and outcomes of the research education program.
- Specify baseline metrics (e.g., numbers, educational levels, etc.), and measures to gauge the short and long-term success of the program in achieving its objectives.
- Wherever appropriate, include a plan to obtain feedback from participants to help identify weaknesses and to provide suggestions for improvements.

Dissemination Plan

- Provide a plan to disseminate any findings resulting from or materials developed by the program nationally, to the broader and relevant biomedical research community.
 - For example, sharing course curricula and related materials via web postings, presentations at scientific meetings, and workshops.
- For Courses, Curriculum & Methods programs, the dissemination plan should address how the program may be adapted to other organizations.

Letters of Support

- **Required:** A letter of institutional commitment must be attached as part of Letters of Support.
 - Describe the activities and resources provided by the organization that will ensure the success of the planned research education program and its participants.
 - Do not duplicate information in the “Facilities & Other Resources” or “Institutional Environment and Commitment” section of the Research Education Program Plan.
- Additional Letters of Support are permitted.
- Combine all Letters of Support into a single PDF file.
- **Note that Letters of Support will no longer be permitted in Forms J (see [NOT-OD-26-094](#))**

Assignment Request Form

- **Use this form if you wish to request specific awarding component assignments (e.g., NIGMS).**
- The Division of Receipt and Referral (DRR), Center for Scientific Review (CSR) is responsible for making assignments.
- All assignment suggestions will be considered; however, not all assignment suggestions can be honored. Applications are assigned based on relevance of your application to an individual awarding component mission and scientific interests in addition to administrative requirements.
- You do not need to make entries in all three boxes of the “Awarding Component Assignment Suggestions” section.

Resources

- Courses, Curriculum & Methods [webpage](#) and [NOFO \(PA-27-034\)](#)
- Mentoring Activities & Networks [webpage](#) and [NOFO \(PA-27-035\)](#)
- [NIGMS Profile Page](#)
- [Research Education Funding Considerations and Contacts page](#)
- [Notices of NIH Policy Changes](#) and [NIH Guide](#) for IC-specific Notices (you can subscribe!)

We strongly encourage you to consult with program officers via the NIGMSR25courses@nih.gov or NIGMSR25mentoring@nih.gov mailboxes before submission.

Budget Overview

Budget Considerations

- NIGMS typically supports research education awards for up to 5 years. NIGMS also supports pilot curriculum and methods development projects for up to 3 years.
- NIGMS will consider up to \$500,000 direct costs per year.
- Award budgets must reflect the actual costs of the proposed project.

Participant Costs

- Participants may be compensated for participation in activities specifically required by the proposed research education program, if sufficiently justified. **Participant costs must be itemized in the proposed budget.**
- While generally not an allowable cost, **with strong justification**, participants in the research education program may receive per diem unless such costs are furnished as part of the registration fee.
- Individuals supported by NIH K, T, or F awards may receive educational experiences supported by an R25 program, as participants, but may not receive salary or stipend supplementation from a research education program.

Other Program-Related Expenses

- Consultant costs, equipment, supplies, travel for key persons, and other program-related expenses may be included in the proposed budget. These expenses must be justified as specifically required by the proposed program and must not duplicate items generally available at the applicant institution.
- Limited program evaluation costs are allowed up to a maximum of 5% of direct costs per year for the 5-year project period. This includes salaries for evaluation consultants, if any.

Peer Review Overview

Review

- All applications will be reviewed at the Center for Scientific Review (CSR).
- Questions about review should be directed to the Scientific Review Officer (SRO) assigned to your application.

Review of Applications

- Please read the review criteria described in **Section V** of the NOFO while preparing your application.
- Make sure **all the required** information is included.
- The review panel will assess your application against the review criteria.

Scored Review Criteria (Section V of NOFO)

- Significance
- Investigator
- Innovation
- Approach
- Environment

NOFO Specific Criteria: Courses, Curriculum and Methods

- **Goal** is to support activities that translate the knowledge gained from research into public health applications or educational tools that advance biomedical, behavioral, and clinical research training.
- Applications should be characterized by a **high degree of creativity and scholarship** and should provide **documentation of a strong need** for the proposed course or curriculum or methods to be developed.
- Renewal applications should **demonstrate a continuing need** for the existing course and include a **description of how the proposed course content and/or methodologies have been updated** since the previous application.

NOFO Specific Criteria: Mentoring

- **Goal** is to support activities that will enhance the participants' professional development and foster their career trajectories toward becoming independent investigators.
- Programs should have **clear goals and objectives** as well as describe **appropriate structured activities** to achieve those goals.
- Applications should be characterized by **state-of-the-art approaches** to mentoring and research education, scholarship, and documentation of a **strong need in the research community** for the proposed mentoring program.

Additional Review Criteria

Contribute to the overall impact score but do not get separate scores

- **Instruction in the Methods for Enhancing Reproducibility (if applicable)**
- **Resubmissions (if applicable)**
- **Renewals (if applicable)**
- **Revisions (if applicable)**
- Criteria generally not applicable:
 - Protection of Human Subjects
 - Inclusion of Human Subjects Policies
 - Vertebrate Animals
 - Biohazards

Additional Review Considerations

- Not given individual scores and not considered in the overall impact score.
 - Instruction in the Responsible Conduct of Research
 - Budget and Period of Support
 - Criteria generally not applicable:
 - Select Agents
 - Resource Sharing Plan

Review Process:

Usual Timeline From Submission

Timeframe	Activity
1 - 2 months	Referral
2 - 6 months	Review Panel
6 - 7 months	Summary Statement Available
7 - 8 months	Advisory Council
8 - 9 months	Funding Decisions
10 - 12 months	Award Start Date

- During Review Phase - Reach out to your SRO with review questions
- Post review - Reach out to your PO for next steps

General Tips and Advice

Advice for Applying

- **Read the entire Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).**
- Follow the instructions outlined in the NOFO.
 - Have clear goals and feasible plans related to the NOFO.
 - Tailor materials to the application.
- Contact PO **early** in the process - send a **specific aims** page.
 - Helpful to determine **eligibility** and **responsiveness** of proposal to the Institute or Center's (IC's) mission and priorities
 - Reach out **after summary statement** is released to discuss next steps
- Go for it – don't self-eliminate (and resubmit if needed)

Application Preparation - Tips

- Directly and clearly state the most important information. Reviewers should not be expected to “read between the lines”.
- Include clear, measurable and attainable goals.
- Ensure biosketches are up-to-date and relevant for research education programs (personal statement).

Application Submission

- **Submit early**—at least two days before the deadline to allow time for review.
 - Always review your application and check for completeness.
 - Correct any errors and address all warnings:
 - Note that not all failures to comply are caught by the automated notification.
 - We cannot accept any missing items after the receipt deadline.
 - Always refer to the NIH grants application guide
- ⊘ Applications will be *withdrawn* if anything is missing or unallowed materials are included!**

Avoid Administrative Withdrawal

NOTE: Applications will be withdrawn prior to peer review if improper Appendix or Hyperlinks are used, or if any required attachments and content are missing.

APPENDIX: Do not use the Appendix to circumvent page limits. Follow all instructions for the Appendix as described in the How to Apply - Application Guide.

Hyperlinks and URLs

- Are not permitted in the Research Plan/Approach
- They may be used in citing relevant publications in biosketches and publication lists.
- <https://grants.nih.gov/grants-process/write-application/how-to-apply-application-guide/format-attachments>

Questions and Contacts

Scientific/Research Contacts

- NIGMS R25 Courses, Curriculum & Methods: NIGMSR25courses@nih.gov
- NIGMS R25 Mentoring Activities & Networks: NIGMSR25mentoring@nih.gov

Financial/Grants Management Contacts

- NIGMS Grants Administration Branch: NIGMSTWDGABNOFO@nih.gov

Peer Review Contact

- Center for Scientific Review (CSR): Check your eRA Commons account for review assignment and contact information

**Thank you and Good Luck on the
Application!**