

Mini e-Clinic:

NIH/NSF Biosketch Updates

May 19, 2021



Northeastern
University

Updated NSF Biosketch Requirements



The requirement to use an NSF-approved format for preparation of the biographical sketch went into effect for new proposals submitted or due on or after **October 5, 2020**.

Biosketch Format Updates

- Permit use of “et al” for publication citations in the **Products section** in the event that listing multiple authors makes it difficult to fit the information into the allotted space (NSF fillable format and SciENCv format)
- Increased space for the **Products section** by removing instructional text. Links added to relevant PAPPG sections (NSF fillable format)
- Removed the requirement to include the NSF ID (NSF fillable format)
- Added a version date to the document (NSF fillable format)
- **Appointments section:** should include any titled academic, professional, or institutional position, **whether or not remuneration is received**. With regard to professional appointments, senior personnel **must identify all** current domestic or foreign professional appointments outside of the individual's academic, professional, or institutional appointments at the proposing organization.

Updated NSF Biosketch Requirements



Approved formats for creating NSF biographical sketches are:

[SciENCv](#) - (Revised May 1, 2020) NSF has partnered with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to use [SciENCv: Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae](#) as an NSF-approved format for use in preparation of the biographical sketch section of an NSF proposal. Adoption of a single, common researcher profile system for Federal grants reduces administrative burden for researchers. [SciENCv](#) will produce an NSF-compliant PDF version of the biographical sketch. Proposers must save these documents and submit them as part of their proposals via FastLane, Research.gov or Grants.gov.

[NSF Fillable PDF](#) - (Revised May 1, 2020) Proposers should download and save the blank PDF document prior to adding content. NSF recommends both Mac and Windows users open and fill in the blank PDF document using Adobe Acrobat Reader for an optimized experience. The completed and saved PDF can then be uploaded via FastLane, Research.gov or Grants.gov.

See [PAPPG Chapter II.C.2.f\(i\)\(c\)](#) for complete coverage of the requirements for the biographical sketch.

Updated NIH Biosketch Requirements

Announced March 2021, updated biosketch and other support format pages and instructions are available for use in applications, Just-in-Time (JIT) Reports, and Research Performance Progress Reports (RPPRs). Use of the new format pages is **required/preferred for JIT and RPPRs as of May 25, 2021 and required for due dates and submissions on or after January 25, 2022** ([NOT-OD-21-110](#) and [NOT-OD-21-073](#)).

Failure to follow the appropriate formats on or after January 25, 2022 may cause NIH to withdraw applications from or delay consideration of funding.

The updated format pages and instructions for the Biosketch can be found [here](#). The updated SciENCv Biosketch template was released in March 2021. Investigators with an existing Biosketch in SciENCv will be able to transfer their current Biosketch information to the new format.

Updated NIH Biosketch Requirements

Biosketch Format Updates:

Section A, Personal Statement: Briefly describe why you are well-suited for your role(s) in this project. Relevant factors may include: aspects of your training; your previous experimental work on this specific topic or related topics; your technical expertise; your collaborators or scientific environment; and/or your past performance in this or related fields, ***including ongoing and completed research projects from the past three years that you want to draw attention to (previously known as research support).***

Section B, 'Positions and Honors' has been renamed "Positions, ***Scientific Appointments***, and Honors" and updated to read: List in ***reverse*** chronological order ***all positions and scientific appointments both domestic and foreign, including affiliations with foreign entities or governments. This includes titled academic, professional, or institutional appointments whether or not remuneration is received, and whether full-time, part-time, or voluntary (including adjunct, visiting, or honorary).*** High school students and undergraduates may include any previous positions. For individuals who are not currently located at the applicant organization, include the expected position at the applicant organization and the expected start date.

Updated NIH Biosketch Requirements

Biosketch Format Updates:

- For the **non-Fellowship Biosketch**, Section D. has been removed (*this was Additional Information: Research Support and/or Scholastic Performance*).
- For the **Fellowship Biosketch**, Section D has been updated to remove ‘Research Support’ (now renamed to “Scholastic Performance”)
- As applicable, all applicants may include details on ongoing and completed research projects from the past three years that they want to draw attention to within the personal statement, Section A.

Resources

NSF-Approved Formats for the Biographical Sketch

NIH Biosketch Format Pages, Instructions and Samples

- Updated Biosketch resources, including FAQs and sample Biosketch format pages can be found [here](#).