

# CAREER Sanity Check 2024

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## 1 NSF Merit Review Criteria

The following elements should be considered for INTELLECTUAL MERIT and BROADER IMPACTS

1. What is the potential for the proposed activity to:
  - (a) INTELLECTUAL MERIT: Potential to advance knowledge; and
  - (b) BROADER IMPACTS: Potential to benefit society and contribute to the achievement of specific, desired societal outcomes
2. To what extent do the proposed activities suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts?
3. Is the plan for carrying out the proposed activities well-reasoned, well organized, and based on a sound rationale? Does the plan incorporate a mechanism to assess success?
4. How well qualified is the individual, team, or institution to conduct the proposed activities?
5. Are there adequate resources available to the PI (either at the home institution or through collaborations) to carry out the proposed activities?

## 2 Integration of Research and Education

- All CAREER proposals must have an integrated research and education plan at their core.
- NSF recognizes that there is no single approach to an integrated research and education plan; but encourages all applicants to think creatively about how their **research will impact their education goals** and, conversely, **how their education activities will feed back into their research**.
- These plans should reflect the proposer's own disciplinary and educational interests and goals, as well as the needs and context of his or her organization.
- Because there may be different expectations within different disciplinary fields and/or different organizations, a wide range of research and education activities may be appropriate for the CAREER program

### **3 Basically all the proposal needs to convey**

- What is it about (the research objective—25 words or less)?
- How will you do it (the technical approach)?
- Can you do it (you and your facilities)?
- Is it worth doing (intellectual merit and broader impacts)?
- Will the effort provide a firm foundation for your career plans (integration of education and research)?