NSF ROADMAP

4-6 months before

deadline

4-6 months before the deadline are ideal for beginning to prepare your materials. Connect with potential letter writers, start outlining your research proposal, and participate in activities that will strengthen your broader impacts.

2-3 months before

deadline

Start drafting your personal and research statements. Explore successful proposals collection for award-winning examples, discuss your plans with your department, and seek feedback from peers and mentors on your project description and broader impact drafts.

1 month before deadline

Complete final drafts of all application components, including the research proposal and broader impacts statement. Proofread everything for clarity, grammar, and adherence to NSF formatting. Provide final instructions and submission details to letter writers.

Review your application with your team, and make final edits. Submit your application a few days early to avoid issues, and double-check that all components are complete. After submitting, verify that everything was received successfully.

I-2 weeks before deadline

Next steps

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Be prepared to respond promptly if the NSF requests revisions or additional information. If your proposal is not funded, seek feedback from reviewers to strengthen future applications. If funded, begin planning for project implementation, including setting up timelines, coordinating with collaborators, and addressing any administrative requirements.