NSF Major Research Instrumentation (MRI) Proposals

The National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation Program (NSF-MRI) accepts a maximum of two Track 1 proposals ($100k – $1M) and one Track 2 proposal ($1M - $4M) per institution per year. Grants support the purchase or development of new instrumentation in both tracks. The submission deadline is in mid-January.

Because interest in the NSF-MRI program sometimes exceeds the allowable number of submissions, prospective Principal Investigators are encouraged to submit a pre-proposal to their Dean by October 12. If too few pre-proposals are received, permission will be granted on a first-come basis after October 12. Please contact RSP directly if you miss the October 12 pre-proposal deadline but would still like to submit a proposal in this year's competition.

Spring/Summer

- Identify resource needs (staffing, space, operating) and preliminary plans for addressing them.

October 12

- Pre-proposals as described below due to Deans.

October 22

- Pre-proposals due from Deans to RSP. At their discretion, colleges may provide commentary or rankings, but this is not required.

November 2

- PIs will be notified of the outcome of the review process. Pre-proposals will be reviewed by a committee having prior experience with major instrumentation proposals, which provides a recommendation to the Vice Provost for Research.

<u>Pre-proposal format</u>.

Please provide a narrative no more than two pages in length addressing:

- ☐ Names of PIs and co-PIs, description of the instrument, and approximate cost
- ☐ Description of any special resource needs and preliminary plan for addressing
- ☐ Scientific merit and broader impacts
- ☐ Responsiveness to the university's strategic plan
- ☐ Any special considerations: e.g., reasons why this proposal is better submitted in this cycle rather than a future one.

Appended documents, outside the 2-page limit:

- ☐ NSF-style biosketches for PIs and co-PIs.
- ☐ If the proposal will be a resubmission, include reviewers' comments from the most recent submission and describe plans to address them.