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 institutional submissions, prospective Principal Investigators are encouraged to submit pre-proposals for internal selection. For proposals targeting the January 2023 submission window there will be two internal competitions in 2022:

**Spring 2022 Deadline #1. For new proposals only.**
For proposals describing new concepts not previously submitted to the MRI program in the last three years. New proposals will be considered in a spring competition, with announcements made prior to the end of spring quarter in order to allow additional time for full proposal development. It is anticipated that one MRI slot will be allocated during spring.

- May 23, Pre-proposals due to deans. Colleges may provide commentary or rankings, but this is not required.
- May 31, Pre-proposals due from deans to RSP
- June 10, announcement made

**Fall 2022 Pre-Proposal Deadline #2. For new proposals and resubmissions.**
Proposals describing both new concepts and resubmissions will be considered together in fall, after the reviews from the prior year’s submissions become available. Proposals not selected during spring may make revisions and submit for reconsideration in fall. It is anticipated that one MRI slot will be allocated during fall.

- October 10, Pre-proposals due to deans. Colleges may provide commentary or rankings, but this is not required.
- October 17, Pre-proposals due from deans to RSP
- October 28, announcement made

If too few pre-proposals are received, permission will be granted on a first-come basis after October 10. Please contact RSP directly if you miss the October 10 pre-proposal deadline but would still like to submit a proposal in the January 2023 window.

Proposals will be reviewed by a faculty committee having prior experience with major instrumentation grants. Please refer to the guidelines on the next page when preparing your pre-proposal.
Pre-proposal format.
Please provide a narrative no more than three pages in length addressing:

- Names of PIs and co-PIs, description of the instrument, and approximate cost.
- Please explain why this proposal should be a priority for Western.
- Please explain why this proposal would be competitively reviewed by an NSF panel.
- Description of any special resource needs and preliminary plan for addressing them. Examples include new space requirements, funding sources for required service contract(s), staff, and site preparation.
- Any special considerations: e.g., reasons why this proposal is better submitted in this cycle rather than a future one.

Appended documents, outside the 3-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 a narrative describing plans to address them.

Submission instructions:
- PIs should submit pre-proposals by email to college offices by May 23 or October 10.
- Colleges should transmit pre-proposals along with any optional comments or rankings to research@wwu.edu by May 31 or October 17.