

Writing NIH Training Grants

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Start Here

- NIGMS Grant Application and Review files

What NIGMS Mandates

- Describe the mission and objectives of the program to be supported by the training grant.
- Describe the program activities and any innovative features that will be provided for trainees.
- For ongoing training grants, has training in any scientific disciplines or fields been added or deleted?
- Do the prospective trainees have adequate quantitative backgrounds relevant to the proposed training to pursue cutting-edge biomedical research? What does the training grant/program do to ensure that students have appropriate quantitative training?

What NIGMS Suggests

- Graduate programs supported by these training grants are encouraged to offer opportunities for interested trainees to obtain experience in teaching.
- Graduate programs are encouraged, if appropriate, to offer opportunities for interested students to take industrial or other internships outside of the training institution.
- Graduate programs are encouraged to provide information to trainees and prospective applicants about career outcomes of recent graduates and to organize student seminars and workshops for discussions of career opportunities and options.
- Graduate programs are encouraged to recruit trainees with a variety of undergraduate science backgrounds, including mathematics, engineering, and the physical sciences.

Let's Talk About Tables

- First principle— do more than fill them out; analyze and summarize
- For example: <http://www.nigms.nih.gov/funding/table2.html>

Another Table, Another Classic

- <http://www.nigms.nih.gov/funding/table5.html>

What I Learned and What I Did

- Write the application yourself
- Read what you wrote
- Have others read what you wrote, especially co-Director, Executive Committees, even Trainees
- Say what you will do
- Do what you say
- Make sure the program is in place and running before you submit
- Finally making the application an enduring document; a practical guide as well as a tool for long-range planning

What Does Everyone Say They Have?

- Great Director and Steering Committee
- Deep and talented applicant pool
- Accomplished trainers who collaborate wonderfully
- All kinds of institutional support
- Integrative and interdisciplinary tracks of coursework
- Excellent trainee mentorship, annual review, and placement after graduation

What Sets Programs Apart?

- Greater than the sum of its parts
- Trainees who view the Director as “go to”
- Clear identity to students and faculty alike
- Students that are happier at the end than beginning
- Everyone sees the Program as invaluable

How Do You Make a Program Unique?

- Rely on someone else! Two heads are better than one! Three even more; heck why not everyone?
- Develop a strategic plan
- Know what the program should like before you begin
- Delegate responsibility and I mean truly delegate!
- Everyone should feel ownership