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Research and Sponsored Programs, Office of

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9-7-2022

## NSF GRFP Information Session, Sept 7, 2022

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*University of Mississippi. Office of Research and Sponsored Programs*

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*University of Mississippi. Graduate School*

Vivian Ibrahim

*University of Mississippi. Office of National Scholarship Advisement*

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# The University of Mississippi



**NSF GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM (GRFP)  
INFORMATION SESSIONS  
JUL 21, SEP 7, 2022**

# Housekeeping



- **Mute** your audio (until recognized to speak)
- **Share Video** if comfortable, bandwidth permitting
- **Raise your Hand** if you would like to speak (or just unmute and speak.)
- **Use Chat** to ask questions in the meantime
  - Those with answers may type them into the chat as we go.
  - Other ??s will be answered at the end or following the session
- The slides and recording will be available soon at [https://blackboard.olemiss.edu/webapps/blackboard/execute/courseMain?course\\_id=\\_82745\\_1](https://blackboard.olemiss.edu/webapps/blackboard/execute/courseMain?course_id=_82745_1)

# Co-Presenters



**Jason Hale, M.S.**  
Director of Research Development, **ORSP**

**Robert Doerksen, Ph.D.**  
Associate Dean of the **Graduate School**

**Vivian Ibrahim, Ph.D.**  
Director of the **Office of National Scholarship  
Advisement**

**and guests**

# Info Session Goals



- **Understand** what GRFP Fellowships are
- General idea of **how, where, and when to apply**
- Learn how NSF will **evaluate** your application
- Hear from GRFP experienced **UM Faculty & Students**
- **Get tips** on making a competitive application
- **Start thinking abt/sharing your proposal ideas**
- Identify your **questions**, show you **where to find answers** and **access additional information & support**
- Learn about UM's **\$incentive** for applying
  - \$200 for seniors; \$1,000 for graduate students

# What are GRFP fellowships?



- Graduate **fellowships (scholarships)** funded by NSF
  - **Investments in YOU!**
  - Bets on the **future U.S. STEM workforce.**
- Provides **financial support** for 3 years of graduate school
- For students in **research-based STEM graduate programs** exploring **qualifying STEM research topics**
- Very **student-driven** and **flexible**
  - vs. typical “graduate assistantships” (faculty or department driven)
- Very **prestigious**, and **competitive**
  - **~16% of applications are awarded**
  - **Honorable Mentions** for meritorious, but unawarded, applications are still **significant national achievements!**

# What GR Fellowships Offer?



## Three to Five Year Award Total – \$147,000

- 3 years of support towards graduate study (over 5 years)
  - ~~\$34,000~~ **\$37,000 Stipend** per year  
(\$111,000 total over length of the award)
  - **\$12,000 annual Educational allowance** to institution
    - ✦ For tuition, fees, and other educational expenses  
(\$36,000 total over length of the award)
- Flexible choice of **project, advisor, & program**
- **Portability** to any accredited institution located in the US to pursue Master's or Ph.D. degree

# How many GRFP fellowships?



- For the 2020 competition, NSF received over 13,000 applications and made 2,076 fellowships offers.  
<https://www.nsfgrfp.org/applicants/>
- For the 2021 competition, NSF offered fellowships to 2,074 applicants. Another 1,830 received Honorable Mention.
- 2022: 2,193+ Offers; 1,413+ Honorable Mentions
- You can look them all up here:  
<https://www.research.gov/grfp/AwardeeList.do?method=loadAwardeeList>

## 2022 Offered Award List

2,193 Applicants found, displaying 436 to 450

[Prev] 30

Name	Baccalaureate Institution	Field of Study	Current Institution
Williamson, Wyomia MyKayla	University of Mississippi	Social Sciences - Anthropology, other (specify) - Archaeology	University of Mississippi
Wallace, Austin	University of Mississippi	Chemistry - Chemical Theory, Models, and Computational Methods	University of Mississippi
Savino, Benjamin Sam	University of Mississippi	Engineering - Mechanical Engineering	University of Mississippi

- For the 2023 competition (this year), 2,750 awards are expected!



# Who led in GRFP awards last yr?

## Zoom Poll



- Cornell
- Georgia Tech
- MIT
- Stanford
- UC Berkeley
- UC San Diego
- Univ. of Michigan
- UT Austin
- Univ. of Washington

# Who led in GRFP awards last yr?

## Zoom Poll



- Cornell - 48
- Georgia Tech - 49
- **MIT - 122**
- Stanford - 69
- UC Berkeley - 93
- UC San Diego - 40
- Univ. of Michigan - 44
- UT Austin - 42
- Univ. of Washington - 40

# Who led in SEC GRFPs last yr?

## Zoom Poll



- Mississippi State
- Texas A&M
- Vanderbilt
- U. of Alabama
- U. of Florida
- U. of Georgia
- U. of Kentucky
- U. of Mississippi
- U. of South Carolina
- U. of Tennessee

# Who led in SEC GRFPs last yr?



1.	<b>Vanderbilt:</b>	<b>32</b>
2.	U. of Florida:	17
3.	Texas A&M:	10
4.	U. of Georgia:	8
5.	U. of S. Carolina:	5
6.	U. of Tennessee:	5
7.	<b>U. Mississippi:</b>	<b>3</b>
8.	Mississippi State:	3
9.	U. of Alabama:	3
10.	U. of Kentucky:	3
11.	U. of Missouri:	3
12.	U. of Arkansas:	2
13.	Auburn:	2
14.	LSU: 	0

# GRFP Awards vs. Student Enrollment



1. Vanderbilt: 32
2. U. of Florida: 17
3. Texas A&M: 10
4. U. of Georgia: 8
5. U. of S. Carolina: 5
6. U. of Tennessee: 5
7. **U. Mississippi: 3**
8. MSU: 3
9. U. of Alabama: 3
10. U. of Kentucky: 3
11. U. of Missouri: 3
12. U. of Arkansas: 2
13. Auburn: 2
14. LSU: 0

Institution	Enrollment
Texas A & M University-College Station	70,418
University of Florida	53,372
University of Georgia	39,147
The University of Alabama	37,840
University of South Carolina-Columbia	35,470
Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College	34,285
University of Missouri-Columbia	31,089
Auburn University	30,737
The University of Tennessee-Knoxville	30,559
University of Kentucky	29,986
University of Arkansas	27,562
Mississippi State University	22,986
<b>University of Mississippi</b>	<b>21,014</b>
Vanderbilt University	13,537

# GRFP Application Timeline

## Application Deadlines

All applications are due at 5:00 PM Local Time of Mailing Address.

July/August

Solicitation  
Posted

- Oct. 17, 2022 – Life Sciences
- Oct. 18, 2022 – Computer and Information Science and Engineering, Materials Research, Psychology, Social Sciences, STEM Education and Learning
- Oct. 20, 2022 – Engineering
- Oct. 21, 2022 – Chemistry, Geosciences, Mathematical Sciences, Physics and Astronomy

## Reference Letter Deadline

- Oct. 28, 2022 – 5:00 PM ET

Recipients  
Announced

March - April

Acceptance of Award  
and Declaration of  
Tenure/Reserve

May 1

Fellowship  
Year Begins

June 1 or Sept. 1

# How to Prepare and Submit

beta.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/nsf-graduate-research-fellowship-program-grfp

## NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)

[View guidelines](#)

[22-614](#)

[← Search for more funding opportunities](#)

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### **i** Important Information for Proposers

A revised version of the *NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide* (PAPPG) (NSF 22-1), is

## Synopsis

The purpose of the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) is to help ensure the quality, vitality, and diversity of the scientific and engineering workforce of the United States. The program recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students who are pursuing full-time research-based master's and doctoral degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) or in STEM education. The GRFP provides three years of support over a five-year fellowship period for the graduate education of individuals who have demonstrated their potential for significant research achievements in STEM or STEM education. NSF actively encourages women, persons who are members of groups historically underrepresented in STEM, persons with disabilities, and veterans to apply.

NSF GRFP was established to recruit and support individuals who demonstrate the potential to make

## Upcoming due dates

### Full proposal

**2022**

**October 17** - Deadline date

Life Sciences

**October 18** - Deadline date

Computer and Information Science and Engineering, Materials Research, Psychology, Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences, STEM

# How to Prepare and Submit



**Solicitation found on NSF GRFP Program Page:**  
**<https://beta.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/nsf-graduate-research-fellowship-program-grfp>**

**Provides the following information:**

- Deadlines
- Program description
- Award information
- Eligibility requirements
- Application preparation
- Submission instructions
- Application review criteria



# GRFP Application



**Complete an Application Package at [research.gov](https://www.research.gov):**

- 1) Personal Information, Education, Work/Research Experience, Proposed Field of Study, Academic Honors, Publications
- 2) **Personal, Relevant Background and Future Goals Statement (3 pages)**
- 3) **Graduate Research Statement (2 pages)**
- 4) Transcripts (uploaded electronically)
- 5) Three letters of reference

See the most recent Solicitation for app. details & requirements.

# A competitive **Personal Statement**



Time to tell  
your story.



# A competitive **Personal Statement**



- **3 pages max**
- **Experiences** (personal and professional) **contributing** to your **motivation** and **preparation** for **pursuing a STEM career**
- Previous **research/industrial/professional experiences**
  - *What was the project?*
  - *How did you become involved? Where was it done?*
  - *Why was this project worth doing?*
  - *What was your contribution to the project?*
  - *How did your part of the project fit into the whole?*
  - *What have you learned? Any advanced course work?*
- **Career aspirations** and **future goals**
  - *How have your experiences shaped your goals?*
- Address NSF's review criteria
  - Labeled Intellectual Merit section
  - Labeled Broader Impacts section

Ask for  
feedback  
from: Good  
writers and  
story tellers.

# A competitive **Research Statement**



- **2 pages max**
- Describe your **Research Plan**
  - Communicate your **research idea** and **approach**
  - Explain your **research plan** and **methods**
  - What do you expect to **learn**?
  - How will you know if the project is **successful**?
  - What would you do **next**?
- Address NSF's review criteria
  - Labeled Intellectual Merit section
  - Labeled Broader Impacts section
- Communicate clearly for **non-specialists**
  - **Avoid jargon!**
  - Make **your contributions clear**

Consult with a faculty member(s) on technical aspects of the plan.

Consult with lay reader(s) (non-experts) on clarity.

# Stories & Perspectives of GRFP-Experienced Faculty, Students, and Support Staff



**Dr. Ibrahim to go last (more time), with tips for successful applications/services available from ONSA.**

**Faculty with GRFP experience can share their stories perspectives for 2-3 minutes each.**

**Other guest staff members or administrators may offer advice or support services (1-2 minutes each).**

# ONSA Perspectives & Services



**Dr. Vivian Ibrahim, [vibrahim@olemiss.edu](mailto:vibrahim@olemiss.edu)**

→ ↻ 🔒 [onsa.olemiss.edu](https://onsa.olemiss.edu) ☆ ☰ ⓘ

THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

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Office of National Scholarship Advisement

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WANT TO MEET?

✉ [onsa@olemiss.edu](mailto:onsa@olemiss.edu)

☎ 662-915-1798

📍 Honors College 126 or 127

FAX 662-915-7739

TEL 662-915-1798

[2021-2022 Awards Handbook](#)

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ally McDonnell Barksdale  
Honors College



NSF GRFP  
RECIPIENTS  
2021

**ONSA**

[ The Office of National  
Scholarship Advisement ]  
The University of Mississippi

# Review Process



- All applications will be reviewed and rated **holistically** by **disciplinary** and **interdisciplinary scientists** and **engineers**, and **other** professional graduate education experts.

*Know your audience.*

*Write for your audience.*

# Standard NSF Review Criteria



Two National Science Board-approved review criteria:

- **Intellectual Merit**

- How important is the proposed activity to advancing knowledge within its own field or across different fields?

Why will other **scientists** care?

- **Broader Impacts**

How well does the proposed activity benefit society or advance desired societal outcomes?

Why will other **citizens** care?



# Who are You?

2 minutes



## **Zoom Poll: Who are you?**

- 1. What is your classification?**
- 2. What is your (likely) graduate field of study?**

# Intellectual Merit



## Your potential to discover new knowledge

- Demonstrated **intellectual ability** (grades, curricula, awards...)
- Other evidence of your **potential for scholarly scientific study**, such as your ability to:
  - Plan and conduct research
  - Work as a member of a team as well as independently
  - Interpret and communicate research
  - Take initiative, solve problems, persist
- The **potential** of your **approach to advance your field of study** and your **Research Plan** to lead to new knowledge

# Broader Impacts



- **Your** potential **impact on society**
- **Your research project's** potential **impact on society:**  
why it's important

Societal benefits may include, but are *not limited* to:

- **Increasing participation of underrepresented groups:** women, underrepresented racial or ethnic minorities, students w/disabilities, veterans
- **Education outreach:** Mentoring; improving STEM education
- Increasing **public scientific literacy**; increased public engagement with science and technology
- **Community outreach:** science clubs, radio, TV, blogs
- Potential to impact a diverse, globally competitive **workforce**
- **Increasing collaboration:** academia, industry, others

# Intellectual Merit & Broader Impacts



Evidence of **intellectual merit** can be found in all parts of the application - Personal Statement, Research Plan, letters, experiences, awards, achievements, transcripts.

Likewise, evidence of **broader impacts** can be found in all parts of the application - Personal Statement, Research Plan, letters, experiences, awards, achievements.

However, the both the **Personal, Relevant Background, and Future Goals Statement**, as well as the **Graduate Research Plan Statement**, must **explicitly** address **Intellectual Merit** and **Broader Impacts** under **separate headings** to help reviewers evaluate these criteria.

# Additional GRFP Review Criteria



- **Applicants' potential** to advance knowledge and to make significant research achievements and contributions to their fields throughout their careers.
- Reviewers are asked to assess applications using a **holistic, comprehensive approach**, giving balanced consideration to all components of the application, including the **educational and research record, leadership, outreach, service activities**, and **future plans**, as well as **individual competencies, experiences, and other attributes**.
- The aim is to recruit and retain a diverse cohort of early-career individuals with **high potential for future achievements**, contributions, and broader impacts in STEM and STEM education.

# GRF Ops Center

15 seconds



If in doubt whether your proposed program of study, or your proposed research topic, are considered SUPPORTED fields, contact the The Graduate Research Fellowship Operations Center.

The Graduate Research Fellowship Operations Center is responsible for responding to questions about the program.

For questions concerning eligibility and fields of study, contact the Graduate Research Fellowship Operations Center, (866) 673-4737, international (202) 331-3542, or [info@nsfgrfp.org](mailto:info@nsfgrfp.org).

# To Receive \$200 Incentive



For Undergraduates and for Graduate students that submit but don't meet the other EFG Scholarship eligibility criteria:

- Submit your application on-time to NSF
- Submit proof of NSF acceptance of application, and copy of submitted proposal, to Dr. Doerksen no later than November 15, 2023 ([rjd@olemiss.edu](mailto:rjd@olemiss.edu))
- A \$200 scholarship will be awarded by the end of the fall semester

# Graduate Students: To Receive \$1,000 EFG Scholarship



- Submit an EFG Notice of Intent at <https://olemiss.infoready4.com/> by 9/15/2022.
  - You will receive an email within 10 business days confirming eligibility and availability of funds and providing additional instructions, terms, and conditions.
- Submit proof GRFP Submission/acceptance to NSF to <https://olemiss.infoready4.com/> 11/10/2022.
- Your readers will be asked to confirm having reviewed your application. Once that happens,
- Your \$1,000 EFG scholarship will be deposited to your bursar account before the end of the year or in January.
- See <https://orspresdev.olemiss.edu/efg/>



# Graduate EFG Scholarship Program

orspresdev.olemiss.edu/efg/

THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

ORSP Research Development

IDRUM

Internal Grants

Graduate EFG Scholarships

## The UM Graduate EFG Scholarship Program

### What is the Graduate EFG Scholarship Program?

Numerous federal agencies, professional societies, and other external organizations offer programs where graduate students can compete for grants and fellowships to support their research and creative scholarship activities. In a new University of Mississippi (UM) program, the UM Graduate Encouraging Fellowship & Grant Applications (EFG) Scholarship Program, UM graduate students who compete for qualifying external fellowships or grants may be eligible to receive an EFG Scholarship as an incentive just for applying. With input from the Graduate Student Council (GSC), the EFG Scholarship Program is being piloted by the Graduate School and the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) in fiscal year FY23 (through the end of June 2023), as a replacement to the former GSC Grants Program.

### What are the Eligibility Requirements and Instructions?

# Who Else Can Assist?



**Dr. Ibrahim:** Will provide mentoring on student applications as previously discussed.

**Dr. Doerksen:** Will review and provided feedback on any grad students' personal statements and/or research statements received by October 1, 2022 (email [rjd@olemiss.edu](mailto:rjd@olemiss.edu)).

**Jason Hale:** Will review and provided feedback on any students' personal statements and/or research statements received by Sept 21, 2022 (email [jghale@olemiss.edu](mailto:jghale@olemiss.edu)).

**Others? Adam Smith:** [aes@olemiss.edu](mailto:aes@olemiss.edu)

# Writing Centers

writingcenter.olemiss.edu



**writing centers**

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**GRADUATE STUDENTS**

check out our  
**SPECIAL EVENTS**  
and workshops



**STUDENT ATHLETES**

# If Awarded...



- ORSP and the Graduate School have developed a set of guidelines for GRFP awardees electing to conduct their fellowships at UM.
- See <https://gradschool.olemiss.edu/nsf-grfp>

# Noted in this Year's Solicitation



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND REVISION NOTES

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1. This solicitation covers the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 competition.
2. Applications must be submitted in Research.gov through the GRFP Application Module  
<https://www.research.gov/grfp/Login.do>
3. Applications are due at 5:00 p.m. local time of the applicant's mailing address.
4. NSF will continue to emphasize high priority research in alignment with the priorities laid out in  
[https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/budget\\_fy2023.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/budget_fy2023.pdf).
5. Portions of the eligibility criteria have been rewritten for clarity.
6. Reference letters are due October 28 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET).
7. Applicants and reference letter writers requiring accessibility accommodation are asked to notify the GRF Operations Center at least four weeks before the deadline to coordinate assistance with NSF in submitting the application or reference letter.

# Eligibility Criteria



Eligibility is based on the applicant's status at the application deadline.

Applicants must self-certify that they are eligible to receive the Fellowship. To be eligible, an applicant must meet all of the following eligibility criteria at the application deadline:

- Be a U.S. citizen, national, or permanent resident
- Intend to enroll or be enrolled full-time in a research-based master's or doctoral degree program in an eligible Field of Study in STEM or STEM education (See Appendix and Section IV.3 for eligible Fields of Study)
- Have never previously accepted a Graduate Research Fellowship
- If previously offered a Graduate Research Fellowship, have declined by the acceptance deadline
- Have never previously applied to GRFP while enrolled in a graduate degree program
- Have never earned a doctoral or terminal degree in any field
- Have never earned a master's or professional degree (see joint bachelor's-master's degree information below) in any field, or completed more than one academic year in a graduate degree-granting program, unless (i) returning to graduate study after an interruption of two (2) or more consecutive years immediately preceding the application deadline, and; (ii) are not enrolled in a graduate degree program at the application deadline
- Not be a current NSF employee



# Examples of GRFP Proposals ?



<https://www.alexhunterlang.com/nsf-fellowship>

- UM ORSP cannot confirm whether all of these are legitimate or not, but you might want to take a look at some of them.

NSF GRFP Examples

Name	Year	Area	Age of Applicant	Success	Proposal	Personal	Previous	Ratings
Brandon Barker	2019	Astronomy and Astrophysics	Senior Undergrad	Winner!	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	NA	<a href="#">Yes</a>
Logan Pearce	2019	Astronomy, high-contrast imaging	Senior Undergrad	Winner!	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	NA	No
Dara Storer	2019	Astrophysics	First Year Grad	Winner!	<a href="#">Yes</a>	No	NA	<a href="#">Yes</a>
Ava Vargason	2019	Biomedical Engineering	Second Year Grad	Winner!	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	NA	No
Hannah Viola	2019	Biomedical Engineering	Second Year Grad	HM	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	NA	<a href="#">Yes</a>
Kevin Wyss	2019	Chemical Catalysis	Senior Undergrad	Winner!	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	NA	<a href="#">Yes</a>
Anonymous	2019	Civil Engineering	Senior Undergrad	Winner!	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	NA	No
Noemi Glaeser	2019	Computational Science and Engineering	Senior Undergrad	Winner!	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	NA	<a href="#">Yes</a>
Nate Weinman	2019	Computer Science - Human Computer Interaction	Second Year Grad	Winner!	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	NA	<a href="#">Yes</a>
Dave Klinges	2019	Ecology	Senior Undergrad	Winner!	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	NA	<a href="#">Yes</a>
Haihao Liu	2019	Interdisciplinary: Physics - Condensed Matter and Materials Research	First Year Grad	Winner!	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	NA	<a href="#">Yes</a>
Jeffrey Letourneau	2019	Life Sciences - Microbial Biology	Second Year Grad	Winner!	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	NA	<a href="#">Yes</a>
James Howe	2019	Life Sciences - Neuroscience	Second Year Grad	Winner!	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	NA	<a href="#">Yes</a>
Samantha Moore	2019	Mathematics	Second Year Grad	Winner!	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	NA	<a href="#">Yes</a>
Carleen McKenna	2019	Mechanical Engineering	Senior Undergrad	Winner!	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	NA	<a href="#">Yes</a>
Adina Feinstein	2019	Physics & Astronomy	First Year Grad	Winner!	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	NA	<a href="#">Yes</a>
Raphael Erik Hviding	2019	Physics and Astronomy - Astronomy and Astrophysics	First Year Grad	Winner!	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	NA	<a href="#">Yes</a>
Kyle David	2019	Systematics and Biodiversity	Second Year Grad	Winner!	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	NA	No
Wenzer Qin	2019	Theoretical Physics	Senior Undergrad	Winner!	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	NA	No
Ellis Avallone	2018	Astrophysics	Senior Undergrad	HM	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	NA	No
Ryan Rubenzahl	2018	Astrophysics	Senior Undergrad	Winner!	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	NA	<a href="#">Yes</a>
Emmet Francis	2018	Biomedical Engineering	First Year Grad	Winner!	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	NA	<a href="#">Yes</a>

# Q&A and Discussion







**Good luck!**

The slides (and possibly the recording)  
will be available soon at

[https://blackboard.olemiss.edu/webapps/blackboard/execute/courseMain?course\\_id=82745\\_1](https://blackboard.olemiss.edu/webapps/blackboard/execute/courseMain?course_id=82745_1)



# **Bonus/Extra Slides...**



# Applicants

[Am I Eligible?](#)

[How do I Apply?](#)

[FAQs](#)

GRFP recognizes and supports outstanding graduate students who have demonstrated the potential to be high achieving scientists and engineers, early in their careers. Applicants must be pursuing full-time research-based master's and doctoral degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) or in STEM education at accredited US institutions.

## [Application Deadlines](#)

All applications are due at 5:00 PM Local Time of Mailing Address.

- Oct. 17, 2022 – Life Sciences
- Oct. 18, 2022 – Computer and Information Science and Engineering, Materials Research, Psychology, Social Sciences, STEM Education and Learning
- Oct. 20, 2022 – Engineering
- Oct. 21, 2022 – Chemistry, Geosciences, Mathematical Sciences, Physics and Astronomy

## [Reference Letter Deadline](#)

- Oct. 28, 2022 – 5:00 PM ET

## [Upcoming Events](#)

- Aug. 31, 2022 – 11:15 AM to 1:15 PM ET  
Info for Applicants Webinar 1
- Sept. 21, 2022 – 11:15 AM to 1:15 PM ET  
Info for Applicants Webinar 2
- Sept. 28, 2022 – 11:15 AM to 1:15 PM ET  
Reading the Fine Points of the GRFP Solicitation Webinar

<https://www.nsfgrfp.org/>



## Reviewers

[Register Here](#)

[FAQs](#)

NSF welcomes scientists and engineers to serve as reviewers of GRFP applications. Serving as a GRFP Reviewer is an excellent opportunity to apply your research and career expertise to help identify future science and engineering leaders.

[Reviewer registration is now open.](#)

Reviewer Registration Deadline

- Sep. 15, 2022 – 5:00 PM ET

[Upcoming Events](#)

- Nov. 1, 2022 – 11AM to 1 PM ET  
Reviewer Training Webinar #1
- Nov. 4, 2022 – 2 PM to 4 PM ET  
Reviewer Training Webinar #2
- Nov. 10, 2022 – 2 PM to 4 PM ET  
Reviewer Training Webinar #3
- Nov. 15, 2022 – 2 PM to 4 PM ET  
Reviewer Training Webinar #4

<https://www.nsfgrfp.org/>



## Reference Writers

Requirements

FAQs

Reference letters are a key component of a strong GRFP application package. The most effective reference letters provide detailed and specific information about how an applicant meets the NSF Merit Review Criteria of Intellectual Merit and Broader Impacts.

### [Reference Letter Deadline](#)

- Oct. 28, 2022 – 5:00 PM ET

### [Upcoming Events](#)

- Oct. 5, 2022 – 11:15 AM to 1:15 PM ET  
Info for Reference Writers & Research Mentors
- Oct. 6, 2022 – 11 AM to 1 PM ET  
Reference Writers Webinar

# UM Faculty Perspectives



## Molecular Biophysics and Engineering Lab

[Home](#)[Research](#)[Publications](#)[Teaching](#)[Lab Members](#)[PI](#)[Joining the Lab](#)

### Nikki Reinemann-Goss

**Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering**

**Affiliate Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering**

#### EDUCATION

2018 Ph.D. Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Vanderbilt University

2013 B.S. Chemical Engineering (Honors), University of Mississippi

2013 B.S. Chemistry (Honors), University of Mississippi

#### RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Investigating the biophysics of cytoskeletal hierarchy using optical tweezers, force spectroscopy, and fluorescence microscopy
- Systems that include molecular motors, proteins, microtubules, actin, and other cytoskeletal components
- Implications of their synergy in vital life processes such as cell division, motility, muscle contraction, etc.
- Using higher order *in vitro* systems to model physiologically relevant environments for testing cytoskeletal drugs and effects of mutations/disorders in disease states



# UM Faculty Perspectives



## Interdisciplinary NanoBioSciences Lab

[Home](#)[Research Overview](#)[Publications](#)[Teaching](#)[People](#)[Join the Lab!](#)

Thomas Werfel

**Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering**

**Joint Assistant Professor of BioMolecular Sciences**

**Affiliate Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering**

**Education:**

Postdoctoral Fellow, Vanderbilt School of Medicine, 2017-2018

Ph.D. Biomedical Engineering, Vanderbilt University, 2017

M.S. Biomedical Engineering, Vanderbilt University, 2015

B.S. Physics, Murray State University, 2013





# NSF GRFP Reviewer Perspectives



## **Cole Stevens**

Assistant Professor of Pharmacognosy

[stevens@olemiss.edu](mailto:stevens@olemiss.edu)

[www.stevenslab.com](http://www.stevenslab.com)



## **Courtney Roper**

Assistant Professor of  
Environmental Toxicology

[clroper@olemiss.edu](mailto:clroper@olemiss.edu)

[courtneyroper.wixsite.com/roper](http://courtneyroper.wixsite.com/roper)



# Are You Eligible?

1 minute



- **U.S.** citizens, nationals, and permanent residents
- **Early-career**: senior undergraduates, baccalaureate recipients, or graduate students who have completed no more than ONE academic year of study at time of application
- in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics (**STEM**)
- To **ACCEPT** a fellowship offer, you must be **accepted** to a **qualifying graduate program**
- Must (be) **enroll(ed)** in a **full-time, research-based, M.S. or Ph.D.** degree program in **summer** or **fall** of **GRFP award offer year** (not necessarily at the time of application).
- **Professional** degree programs are **NOT** qualifying

# GRFP Eligibility- Academic Levels

30 seconds



## Academic Levels

Applicants compete against others from same Academic Level

- 1:** Seniors or baccalaureate recipients with no graduate study
- 2:** First-year graduate students.
- 3:** 2nd-year grad students
- 4:** More than 12 months of graduate study with an interruption of greater than 2 years  
(*can have M.S. degree, but not terminal degree*)

# How often can you apply?

30 seconds



Only one application per person per annual competition

## Academic Levels

**1:** Seniors or baccalaureates with no graduate study

***No restriction** – can apply every year until enrolled in graduate school*

**2:** First-year graduate students

***Apply only once, in 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> year***

**3:** Second-year graduate students

*No more than one year of graduate study as of August 1 of the year the application is submitted*

# GRFP Fields of Study

20 seconds



- Chemistry
- Computer & Information Systems  
Science/Engineering
- Engineering
- Geosciences
- Life Sciences (includes Biological Sciences)
- Materials Research
- Mathematical Sciences
- Physics and Astronomy
- Psychology
- Social Sciences (includes Economics)
- STEM Education

# NOT SUPPORTED

30 seconds



- Joint science-professional degree programs
  - e.g. MD/PhD, JD/PhD
- **Business administration** or **management**
- **Counseling, Social work**
- Education (except in science and engineering education)
- History (except in history of science)
- **Research with primarily disease-related goals**
- Clinical research, patient-oriented research, epidemiological and behavioral studies, outcomes research, health services, public health research, focus on disease etiology and treatment

# Not Sure about Your Field?

30 seconds



- See Appendix at end of the NSF GRFP Solicitation
- If your proposed subfield is not covered by the one of the listed subfields, it may not be eligible for GRFP.

## X. APPENDIX

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### NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

#### Major Fields of Study

Note: Applications are reviewed based on the selection of a Major Field of Study. As an example, CHEMISTRY is a Major Field of Study, and Chemical Catalysis is a subfield under CHEMISTRY.

Selection of a Major Field of Study determines the application deadline, the broad disciplinary expertise of the reviewers who will review the application, and the discipline of the graduate program if the Fellowship is accepted. The subfield category designates specific expertise of the reviewers. Applicants can select "Other" if their specific subfield is not represented in the list of subfields under the Major Field of Study. The "Other" subfield category should be selected only if the proposed subfield is not covered by one of the listed subfields, and should not be used to designate a subfield that is more specific than the subfields listed. If the proposed subfield is not listed in the Appendix, it may not be eligible for Fellowship support.

# Tips for a competitive application



- **Start early!** Look at the NSF GRFP website ([www.nsfgrfp.org](http://www.nsfgrfp.org)).
- Print, **read**, highlight, re-read, and refer often back to the latest **NSF Solicitation** in preparing your application.
- Read the **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)** and **call NSF** if something is confusing to you
- Describe your honors, experiences, presentations, and any publications (etc.) **clearly** for the reviewers.
- Select and confirm your reference letter writers and monitor receipt of their letters on the GRFP website.
- Share your application materials and the merit review criteria with your reference letter writers.
- Pay attention to NSF's merit review criteria.
- **Your statements should be interesting and clear. Ask several colleagues to read and comment on drafts.**
- **Leverage existing UM GRFP experience!**

# GRF Winning Videos



## **The Secrets of Nitrogenase**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vsiJTouHMg>

## **Whales in Fjords**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S84GQL3IAjw>

## **Sonic Reef**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tBCmIG7zKmU>



# InterActivity

8 minutes



1. Spend **3 full silent minutes** considering **at least ONE** of these questions relative to your GRFP application (each person can decide which question)
  1. What is a career goal you have?
  2. What is a research idea or topic you'd like to explore?
  3. What personal aspect might motivate your career, anchor your story?
  4. What is a question you have about GRFP?
  5. What weakness do you need to address (or what are you afraid of)?
  6. What strength can you capitalize on (or what are you confident about)?
2. Think about how to state your answer in 5 or 10 words or so (but don't share yet)
3. When I say "GO":
  1. Type one of your answers in the chat. **OR**
  2. **Raise your hand to be called on to share out loud.**