

## New Required Format: NSF Documents

**Beginning October 5, 2020, use of new formats approved by the National Science Foundation (NSF) will be required for both the biographical sketch and current and pending support sections of NSF proposals.**

Documents uploaded in a format other than those listed below will trigger a compliance error that will prevent proposal submission in FastLane, Research.gov, and Grants.gov.

NSF-approved formats:

- **SciENCv:** NSF has partnered with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to use SciENCv: Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae as an NSF-approved format for use in preparation of both the Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending Support sections of an NSF proposal. SciENCv will produce an NSF-compliant PDF version of the documents which proposers can save and submit as part of their proposals via FastLane, Research.gov or Grants.gov.
- **NSF Fillable PDF:** NSF is also providing a fillable PDF as an NSF-approved format for use to prepare both the Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending Support sections of an NSF proposal. Proposers can download the respective fillable PDF form from the NSF biographical sketch and current and pending support websites and then submit the completed forms as part of their proposals via FastLane, Research.gov or Grants.gov. Note that the size of the fillable fields in these PDFs cannot be altered; if the fields do not fit your needs, you will need to use the SciENCv option.

**For more information and to access these new formats, visit NSF's website:**

- [NSF Biographical Sketch page](#)
- [NSF Current and Pending Support page](#)

NSF has also provided FAQ documents to assist with using these new formats:

- [FAQs on using SciENCv](#)
- [FAQs on using NSF Fillable PDF](#)

**The templates are available for use now, ahead of the October 5, 2020 deadline.**

Tips:

- Do not alter the fillable PDF forms outside of the fillable fields. This includes adding or deleting fields or deleting blank pages. Alterations may prevent the submission systems (Fastlane, Research.gov, etc) from recognizing the document as an NSF-approved format.
- Do not alter the SciENCv documents once they have been saved / downloaded. Alterations may prevent the submission systems (Fastlane, Research.gov, etc) from recognizing the document as an NSF-approved format.
- To help conserve space in the biographical sketch, NSF is now allowing researchers who include publications in the products section that include multiple authors to list one or more of the authors and then "et al." in lieu of including the complete listing of authors' names.

- Synergistic activities should be specific and must not include multiple examples to further describe the activity. [[PAPPG Chapter II.C.2.f\(i\)\(d\)](#)]. So, for example, you should not state that you serve as a reviewer, and then proceed to list all of the programs and agencies for which you have reviewed. Instead, choose the one instance where you served as a reviewer that is most relevant / illustrative of your activities, and only include that example. Following NSF's guidance on this topic will help save space in the synergistic activities section.
- NSF uses the information submitted in the current and pending support section to assess the capacity of the individual to carry out the research as proposed as well as to help assess any potential overlap/duplication with the project being proposed. Therefore, you should include any projects to which you have committed some amount of time / person-months, regardless of salary. See NSF's [FAQs on current and pending support](#) for more information.