

Survey of Higher Education Strategies to Win Grants from the National Institutes of Health

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THE QUESTIONNAIRE

Introduction

1. Please give us the following contact information
 - A. Name:
 - B. College:
 - C. Work Title:
 - D. Country:
 - E. Email Address:

2. Public or private status of the college
 - A. Public
 - B. Private

3. Full time equivalent enrollment

4. College type or Carnegie class
 - A. Community or 4-Year College
 - B. MA/PHD granting institution but not a research university
 - C. Research university
 - D. Highly Specialized College or University such as Medical School or College of Engineering
 - E. Non-Higher Education Organization that Conducts Research

5. Data for complete institution or division of institution
 - A. Specialized School of Division
 - B. Particular Department
 - C. Entire College or University
 - D. Other (please specify)

6. Dollar volume of NIH grants over the past three years

Grant Volume

7. Approximately what percentage of the total monetary value of your institution's total NIH grants over the past five years were accounted for by R01 grants?

8. If more than 50% of your NIH grants come from R01 grants please specify the two types of NIH grants that account for the greatest share of your grant receipts and the percentage of receipts accounted for by each of these two types of grants (or one if your institution receives funding only for one type of grant.)

#1
#2

Use of Consultants

9. Has your college ever hired a consultant or consulting firm to assist you in developing your NIH grants?
- A. Yes
B. No
10. If you have hired a consultant how would you characterize their service:
- A. Editing and Polishing Grant Proposals
B. Overall Strategic Advice on How to Approach the NIH
11. If so was one or more of the individuals who consulted for you a former employee of the NIH?
- A. Yes
B. No
12. How much have you spent on such consulting in the past three years?
13. How would you rate the performance of the consultants that you hired?
- A. Save your money
B. Adequate
C. Beneficial
D. Highly Useful
14. Which firms have you hired for such consulting?

Studying the NIH

15. About how much staff time annually would you say that your office expends on the administrative level studying the NIH, tracking success rates, and examining shifts in funding and exploring how its shifting priorities might impact your own research programs? (if one person full time does this the figure would be approximately 1,900 hours for most institutions)

NIH Study Sessions

16. Do you track how many faculty members and other scholars associated with your institution participate in NIH study sessions?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No

17. If so approximately how many of your institution's scientists have participated in NIH study sessions over the past 5 years?

18. Does the college have a policy of debriefing these individuals periodically to obtain insights into trend in NIH grant awarding policies? If so how is this effort organized?

Assessment

19. Does your institution have any form of assessment effort to evaluate how critical grant application skills are transferred from the more experienced to the less experienced in given fields? If so how do you organize this effort?

Workshops on the NIH

20. About how many workshops does your college offer annually in NIH grant writing or other aspects of approaching the NIH?

21. How well attended are these workshops?

Proficiency of your researchers

22. How would you rate the proficiency of your faculty and other researchers who apply for NIH grants in each of the following categories of grant making?

	Highly Proficient	Proficient	Somewhat Proficient	Not Very Proficient
Making Contacts at the NIH for Pre-Review of Ideas				
Choosing the Right NIH grant program to apply through				
Writing and Drafting Understanding the Various Types of Grants Offered by the NIH				
Foreseeing in advance likely questions raised in peer review				
Recruiting Collaborators Revision of Previously Unsuccessful Submissions				
Finding mentors Working well with Collaborators				
Preparing budget requests for NIH grants				
Understanding the Mission and Predilections of the NIH				

Mentoring Programs

23. How difficult would you say it has been to get senior faculty or others with significant experience in obtaining NIH grants to read the proposals of junior faculty or staff and mentor them?
- A. Very Easy
 - B. Easy
 - C. Somewhat easy
 - D. Somewhat difficult
 - E. Difficult
 - F. Very Difficult
24. If you have a formal or informal mentoring program for postdocs or junior faculty so that they can learn from senior faculty or administrators about how to approach the NIH or other grant sources, please describe this program.
25. Does the department or college offer any inducements to senior faculty to do mentoring? How do you get them to perform this important function?
26. Are NIH study section members from your institution involved in your mentoring program? If so what is their level of involvement?

Preparing for Peer Review

27. Has your college organized mock or imitation peer review sessions to preview what might happen in real peer review sessions?
- A. Yes
 - B. No
28. If your college has organized mock peer review sessions or used a similar strategy of some kind to recreate peer review like conditions please describe your policies and experiences below:

Grants from Collaborations

29. What percentage of the grants that your organization has obtained from the NIH in the past three years would you say are the result of collaborative efforts with other universities, research institutes or private companies?
30. Has your organization ever made sub-awards to private sector firms in order to hold down costs and make grant proposals more financially appealing?
- A. Yes
 - B. No

Sub-awards

31. What percentage of the research that your college has done for the NIH has come through sub awards that are aspects of NIH grants subcontracted out to third parties under the supervision of the holder of the basic grant?
32. If your organization has a strategy to obtain sub-awards explain how you have gone about doing so.

Use of NIH Resources

33. Which resources from the NIH itself do you find most useful in helping your researchers to prepare for submitting NIH grant applications?
34. Over the past three years approximately how many speakers or other personnel from the NIH have visited your campus to speak on or assist in any way with furthering your understanding of the NIH?
35. Over the past three years, about what percentage of the time that your college invites a speaker or other representative from the NIH to speak or otherwise further your understanding of NIH policies does the NIH accept the invitation and send someone?

Parting Advice

36. What websites, newsletters, blogs, magazines, conferences and other information resources do you find most useful in monitoring developments at NIH and preparing for NIH grant applications?
37. What advice can you offer to your peers on best practices in NIH grantmanship?

PARTICIPANTS LIST

Auburn University
Bowdoin College
Case Western Reserve University
Colorado College
Eastern Washington University
George Mason University
Indian River State College
Jacksonville State University
Loma Linda School of Medicine
Long Island University
Miami University
NIH Office of Technology Transfer
Suffolk University
Texas A&M Col Medicine
Texas Woman's University
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
University of Bristol
University of Connecticut Health
University of Georgia
University of Houston
University of Minnesota
University of Mississippi Medical Center
University of North Florida
University of Pennsylvania
University of South Carolina
University of Stirling
University of Texas Tyler
University of Wisconsin Stout
Washington & Jefferson College
Westfield State University
Williamsburg Technical College

Table 2.1 Has your college ever hired a consultant or consulting firm to assist you in developing your NIH grants?

	No Answer	Yes	No
Entire sample	0,00%	17,65%	82,35%

Table 2.2 Has your college ever hired a consultant or consulting firm to assist you in developing your NIH grants? Broken out by public or private status of the college

Public or private status of the college	Yes	No
Public	16,67%	83,33%
Private	20,00%	80,00%

Table 2.3 Has your college ever hired a consultant or consulting firm to assist you in developing your NIH grants? Broken out by full time equivalent enrollment

Full time equivalent enrollment	Yes	No
Less than 3500	22,22%	77,78%
3500-12000	11,11%	88,89%
12000-30000	33,33%	66,67%
More than 30000	0,00%	100,00%

Table 2.4 Has your college ever hired a consultant or consulting firm to assist you in developing your NIH grants? Broken out by college type or Carnegie class

College type or Carnegie class	Yes	No
Community or 4-Year College	0,00%	100,00%
MA/PHD granting institution but not a research university	14,29%	85,71%
Research university	20,00%	80,00%
Highly Specialized College or University such as Medical School or College of Engineering	66,67%	33,33%
Non-Higher Education Organization that Conducts Research	0,00%	100,00%

Table 2.5 Has your college ever hired a consultant or consulting firm to assist you in developing your NIH grants? Broken out by data for complete institution or division of institution

Data for complete institution or division of institution	Yes	No
Specialized School of Division	0,00%	100,00%
Particular Department	0,00%	100,00%
Entire College or University	21,43%	78,57%