

# Challenges with and Tips for Writing Grant Proposals

## Learning from Experience

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CSC Tribal Grant Writing Workshop

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# Writing a grant proposal



**When** to write?

**When** to start writing?

**Where** to start?

**How** to write?

**How** to start writing?

**What** to expect?

**What** is the most successful strategy?

.... ???

**What** are chances of success?

**Whom** to ask for help?

**With whom** to collaborate?



# 1. Topic selection

- It should be new and innovative, but in the scope of general understanding

Beware: 'Brand new' (innovative) ideas and methods → high rejection risk

- Narrow it down/ make it specific (=specify your goals) to match the solicitation

Experiences: NSF, USDA, DOI, EC

- You should be excited about your topic and convey your excitement to the reviewer with your proposal

## 2. Competition

You are competing with renowned and acknowledged institutions (tribal organizations, NGOs, municipalities, scholars)

- How do you get through successfully?
- Is your project brilliant, but you are not known in the field?

*What are your experiences?*



### 3. Collaborators



- Get renowned scholars on board (if beneficial for the project)
  - to overcome the authority barrier
- Make sure to involve people who know their field and 'stuff'
  - scientific correctness of your proposal body
- How to find collaborators? Where do you search?
  - Network (workshops, conferences)
  - Reach out (e.g. OU researchers look for collaborators and cooperation with Native American tribes)
  - Be open to new opportunities

### 3. Collaborators – cont.

Sometimes opportunities are just in front of you ...

Jad – environmental economics, water resource protection, renewable energies, sustainability

- International research and project experience
- Successful with grant proposals, publications and presentations at professional meetings
- NSF Career proposal – searching for Native American collaborators  
*Water conservation in Oklahoma*
- Happy to share resources and contacts to my network

Home Research Teaching EPSCoR CV Publications Contact Photos

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Links

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- [OU Integrity Council](#)
- [DOI](#)

Research

I'm working on a variety of topics related to environmental, natural resource, bioenergy and agricultural economics. My current research focus is on water economics, desalination, biofuels, sustainable resource management, and geospatial and spatio-temporal analysis.

My research has taken me to 29 countries around the world. My most current research affiliations were University of California at Berkeley and University of Texas at Austin. Please check my publications and the photo gallery to view my research projects and field research studies in California and Texas.

Cursor to translate map  
Cursor to select country  
Select flag for more information on countries  
Drag pegman for images  
Zoom in  
Zoom out

Interactive map of countries I visited for my research (or link to [map](#)).



## 4. Acceptance vs. rejection

- Be positive and optimistic, but REALISTIC (acceptance rates, competition)
- Learn from experience – multiple rejections will make you tough!
- Learn from your mistakes (reviews) and do not repeat the same mistakes in your future proposal writing
- Learn from the grant proposal process and from other collaborators



## 5. Never give up!

- Be persistent – a brilliant idea and your bright mind is going to be successful (sooner or later)
- Practice makes perfect!
- Do not stop expanding your collaborator network for future proposals & projects



A circular logo for the University of Oklahoma, featuring a globe and the text "UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA" around the perimeter.

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Thank you

I look forward to discussing potential collaborative projects with you

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