



LEGEND

✓ = The system runs a compliance check and an Error or Warning message will be displayed (as noted in the "Error/Warning" column) if the proposal fails the compliance check.

☐ = Checks only performed by Research.gov.

AUTOMATED PROPOSAL COMPLIANCE CHECKS PERFORMED BY RESEARCH.GOV AS OF MARCH 30, 2020

COMPLIANCE CHECK	FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TYPE	ERROR / WARNING	TYPE OF PROPOSAL
			Research
PROPOSAL SECTION EXISTS CHECKS			
Project Summary is required.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
Project Description is required.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
References Cited is required.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
Budget Justification(s) is required.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources is required.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
Biographical Sketch is required.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
Current and Pending Support is required.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
Collaborators and Other Affiliations is required.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
Data Management Plan is required.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
Postdoctoral Mentoring Plan is required (Conditionally Required).	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
Proposal Updated Justification is required (PFU/Budget Justification).	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
PROPOSAL SECTION PAGE COUNT CHECKS			
Project Summary page count cannot exceed 1 page.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
Project Description page count cannot exceed 15 pages.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
Biographical Sketch(es) page count cannot exceed 2 pages per PI/co-PI/Senior Personnel.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓

COMPLIANCE CHECK	FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TYPE	ERROR / WARNING	TYPE OF PROPOSAL
			Research
Budget Justification page count cannot exceed 5 pages.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
Postdoctoral Mentoring Plan page count cannot exceed 1 page.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
Data Management Plan page count cannot exceed 2 pages.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
PROPOSAL SECTION HEADING CHECKS			
Project Summary must contain the headings "Overview," "Intellectual Merit," and "Broader Impacts."	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
Project Description must contain the headings "Intellectual Merit" and "Broader Impacts."	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
Biographical Sketch should contain the headings "Professional Preparation," "Appointments," "Products" or "Publications," and "Synergistic Activities."	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Warning	✓
PROPOSAL SECTION URLS CHECKS			
URLs are permitted in the Project Description document but NSF is not required to review the content in the hyperlink when making an award decision.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Warning	✓
PROPOSAL SECTION FILE TYPE CHECKS			
.xlsx document is the only acceptable file upload type for: Collaborators and Other Affiliations	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓

COMPLIANCE CHECK	FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TYPE	ERROR / WARNING	TYPE OF PROPOSAL
			Research
PDF document is the only acceptable file upload type for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Summary • Project Description • References Cited • Biographical Sketch • Other Personnel Biographical Information • Budget Justification(s) • Current and Pending Support • Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources • Postdoctoral Mentoring Plan • Data Management Plan • Other Supplementary Documents • List of Suggested Reviewers • List of Reviewers Not to Include • Budget Impact Statement 	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
PROPOSAL SECTION FILE UPLOAD CHECKS			
PDF file must not be password protected, not contain text that is only a scanned format or be an empty file for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Summary • Project Description • References Cited • Biographical Sketch • Other Personnel Biographical Information • Budget Justification(s) • Current and Pending Support • Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources • Postdoctoral Mentoring Plan • Data Management Plan • List of Suggested Reviewers • List of Reviewers Not to Include • Budget Impact Statement 	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
Document must not contain invalid characters in the column names for: Collaborators and Other Affiliations	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓

COMPLIANCE CHECK	FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TYPE	ERROR / WARNING	TYPE OF PROPOSAL
			Research
PROPOSAL SECTION FONT TYPE CHECKS			
<p>Times New Roman, Symbol, Cambria Math, Arial (not Arial Narrow), Courier New, Palatino, Palatino Linotype, Helvetica, and Computer Modern are the only acceptable font types for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Summary • Project Description • References Cited • Biographical Sketch • Other Personnel Biographical Information • Budget Justification(s) • Current and Pending Support • Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources • Postdoctoral Mentoring Plan • Data Management Plan • List of Suggested Reviewers • List of Reviewers Not to Include • Budget Impact Statement 	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Warning	✓
PROPOSAL SECTION FONT SIZE CHECKS			
<p>Except as noted in PAPPG Chapter II.B.2, 10 points or larger is the only acceptable font size for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Summary • Project Description • References Cited • Biographical Sketch • Other Personnel Biographical Information • Budget Justification(s) • Current and Pending Support • Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources • Postdoctoral Mentoring Plan • Data Management Plan • List of Suggested Reviewers • List of Reviewers Not to Include • Budget Impact Statement 	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Warning	✓

COMPLIANCE CHECK	FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TYPE	ERROR / WARNING	TYPE OF PROPOSAL
			Research
PROPOSAL SECTION FILE SIZE CHECKS			
Document upload file size maximum is 10 MB for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Summary • Project Description • References Cited • Biographical Sketch • Other Personnel Biographical Information • Budget Justification(s) • Current and Pending Support • Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources • Postdoctoral Mentoring Plan • Data Management Plan • Other Supplementary Documents • List of Suggested Reviewers • List of Reviewers Not to Include • Collaborators and Other Affiliations • Budget Impact Statement 	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
PROPOSAL SECTION FILE NAME CHECK			
Document upload file name cannot exceed 254 characters for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Summary • Project Description • References Cited • Biographical Sketch • Other Personnel Biographical Information • Budget Justification(s) • Current and Pending Support • Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources • Postdoctoral Mentoring Plan • Data Management Plan • Other Supplementary Documents • List of Suggested Reviewers • List of Reviewers Not to Include • Collaborators and Other Affiliations • Budget Impact Statement 	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓

COMPLIANCE CHECK	FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TYPE	ERROR / WARNING	TYPE OF PROPOSAL
			Research
PROPOSAL SECTION UPLOAD MARGIN CHECK			
<p>Document margins, in all directions (top, bottom, left, and right), must be at least an inch for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Summary • Project Description • References Cited • Biographical Sketch • Other Personnel Biographical Information • Budget Justification(s) • Current and Pending Support • Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources • Postdoctoral Mentoring Plan • Data Management Plan • List of Suggested Reviewers • List of Reviewers Not to Include • Budget Impact Statement 	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
PROPOSAL SECTION LINE SPACING CHECK			
<p>Line spacing should be no more than six lines per inch on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Summary • Project Description • References Cited • Biographical Sketch • Other Personnel Biographical Information • Budget Justification(s) • Current and Pending Support • Facilities, Equipment and Other Resources • Postdoctoral Mentoring Plan • Data Management Plan • List of Suggested Reviewers • List of Reviewers Not to Include • Budget Impact Statement 	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Warning	✓
PROPOSAL BUDGET CHECK			
Senior personnel has funds, but no months indicated.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
All senior personnel in the budget must have months and funds associated for at least one year.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
Senior personnel has months, but no funds indicated.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓

COMPLIANCE CHECK	FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TYPE	ERROR / WARNING	TYPE OF PROPOSAL
			Research
When Postdoctoral Researchers are included, number of personnel, months, and funds must be specified.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
When Other Professionals are included, number of personnel, months, and funds must be specified.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
When Graduate Students are included, number of personnel and funds must be specified.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
When Undergraduate Students are included, number of personnel and funds must be specified.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
When Administrative/Clerical are included, number of personnel and funds must be specified.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
When Other Personnel are included, number of personnel and funds must be specified.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
Equipment has funds for at least one year but no description.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
Equipment has a description, but no funds for at least one year.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
When an equipment line has been added, the description and at least one year of funds must be specified.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
There needs to be at least one participant when funds have been indicated for Participant Support Costs.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
Participant support cost amounts cannot equal zero when there are one or more participants.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
The indirect cost description must be specified.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
Indirect cost has a rate, but no base indicated.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
Indirect cost has a description, but no rate or base for at least one year.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
When an indirect line has been added, the description and at least one year of the rate and base must be specified.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
Indirect cost has a base, but no rate indicated.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
PROPOSAL COVER SHEET CHECK			
Required fields for Place of Performance: Organization Name, Country, Street Address, City.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
Place of Performance postal code not valid for the selected state.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
A Requested Start Date has not been entered.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Warning	✓

COMPLIANCE CHECK	FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TYPE	ERROR / WARNING	TYPE OF PROPOSAL
			Research
Proposal Duration cannot be less than 1 month.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Warning	✓
Vertebrate Animals selected, but animal-use protocol radio button not selected.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
Vertebrate Animals and Approved selected, but required fields missing: IACUC Approval Date, PHS Animal Welfare Assurance Number.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
Human Subjects selected, but radio button not selected: Has the human subjects research for the project been approved by an Institutional Review Board (IRB).	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
Human Subjects and Approved selected, but required field missing: IRB Approval Date.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
Human Subjects and Exempt selected, but required field missing: Exemption Number.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
International Activities selected, but Country is missing.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
Funding of an international branch campus of a U.S. institution of higher education (IHE) is selected, but a country name is not selected.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
Funding of a foreign organization is selected, but a country name is not selected.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
The International Activities checkbox should be checked on the Cover Sheet if the Primary Place of Performance on the Cover Sheet is outside the U.S. (excludes U.S. Possessions).	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
If the Budget contains an amount in the foreign travel line, then the International Activities checkbox on the Cover Sheet should be checked.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
DUNS Number is not registered or active in SAM.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
PROPOSAL DEADLINE SUBMISSION CHECK			
A proposal cannot be submitted unless a Time Zone is associated with the proposing organization.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
A proposal cannot be submitted if it is past 5 PM on the deadline or window date (per the proposing organization's Time Zone as selected in the Organization Profile).	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
Warning will display if there is less than 24 hours left to submit a proposal.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Warning	✓
Warning will display if a PFU is submitted after 5 PM on the deadline date.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Warning	✓

COMPLIANCE CHECK	FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TYPE	ERROR / WARNING	TYPE OF PROPOSAL
			Research
A proposal cannot be submitted if a deadline, window, or target date has not been chosen.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
A proposal cannot be submitted if the Funding Opportunity has expired.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
A Proposal File Update (PFU)/Budget Revision cannot be submitted after reviewers have been assigned to the proposal.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
A Budget Revision cannot be submitted once the proposal has been declined, returned, withdrawn, or awarded.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
A PFU/ Budget Revision cannot be submitted once the proposal has been withdrawn, declined, recommended, awarded, or returned.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
A PFU/Budget Revision cannot be created when the proposal status listed in the system is "pending."	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
An in-progress lead proposal in a separately submitted collaborative cannot be submitted while linked to a non-lead proposal that missed its deadline in an earlier time zone.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
PROPOSAL LINKING CHECK			
A separately submitted collaborative proposal is not linked to another proposal.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓
PROPOSAL SUBMISSION CHECKS			
A linked proposal in a separately submitted collaborative does not yet have Submission Pending proposal status.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Warning	✓
The proposal does not use the current <i>Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide</i> (PAPPG) version.	Program Solicitations (Some) PAPPG	Error	✓

Notes:

- List provides current checks performed by the Research.gov system as of March 30, 2020 for proposals submitted in Research.gov.
- The system currently only supports Full, Research proposals that are (1) Single submissions from one organization; (2) Single submission collaborative proposals with subawards; and (3) Separately submitted collaborative proposals from multiple organizations. Not all program solicitations can be checked due to system constraints.
- Some checks are not enforced for separately submitted collaborative non-lead proposals as stated by NSF policy requirements. The following sections are not required for a non-lead collaborative proposal: Project Summary, Project Description, References Cited, Postdoctoral Mentoring Plan, and Data Management Plan.
- The system is planned to be updated in the future to add support for other types of proposals.
- Not all NSF policy requirements are currently enforced by automated compliance checks.
- Compliance checks are triggered by the "Allow SPO/AOR access" and "Submit" to NSF functions. There are additional actions while preparing a proposal that will trigger a compliance check (i.e., "Share Proposal with SPO/AOR" and "Initiate Proposal Submission" functions).

Error - Checks triggering an error will result in a hard stop and prohibit proposal submission to NSF.

Warning - Checks triggering a warning will allow proposal submission to NSF.

Questions may be directed to the NSF Help Desk at 1-800-381-1532 (7:00 AM - 9:00 PM ET; Monday - Friday except federal holidays) or via email to rgov@nsf.gov.