

Assessment of Student Achievement in Undergraduate Education (ASA)

Program Solicitation

NSF 01-82

DIRECTORATE FOR EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCES
DIVISION OF UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

LETTER OF INTENT DUE DATE(S) (*optional*): April 30, 2001;
October 16, 2001 (for the November 20, 2001, proposal deadline);
August 2, 2002 (for the September 4, 2002, proposal deadline)

FULL PROPOSAL DEADLINE(S): June 7, 2001; November 20, 2001;
September 4, 2002



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Revisions and Updates

Assessment of Student Achievement in Undergraduate Education (ASA) (NSF 01-82)

Effective June 8, 2001, this program solicitation has been updated to reflect the following changes:

- 1.) Added the date of "**October 16, 2001 (for the November 20 proposal deadline)**" to the LETTER OF INTENT DUE DATE(S) on cover page, the SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS section, and sections A. and C. under V. PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS.
- 2.) Added the date of "**November 20, 2001**" to the FULL PROPOSAL DEADLINE(S) on cover page, the SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS section, and sections A. and C. under V. PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS.
- 3.) Added text indicating that the program expects to make about 20 awards in FY2002, to AWARD INFORMATION section under the SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS and under IV. AWARD INFORMATION.
- 4.) Added the text "**and \$3 million in FY2002 also**" to AWARD INFORMATION section under the SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS and under IV. AWARD INFORMATION.

Revisions and Updates

Assessment of Student Achievement in Undergraduate Education (ASA) (NSF 01-82)

Effective June 4, 2002, this program solicitation has been updated to reflect the following changes:

- 1.) Added the date of "**October 16, 2001 (for the November 20, 2001, proposal deadline) and August 2, 2002 (for the September 4, 2002, proposal deadline)**" to the LETTER OF INTENT DUE DATE(S) on cover page, the SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS section, and sections A. and C. under V. PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS.
 - 2.) Added the dates "**November 20, 2001 and September 4, 2002**" to the FULL PROPOSAL DEADLINE(S) on cover page, the SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS section, and sections A. and C. under V. PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS.
 - 3.) Added text indicating that the program expects to make about 20 awards in both FY2002 and FY2003, to AWARD INFORMATION section under the SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS and under IV. AWARD INFORMATION.
 - 4.) Added the text "**\$3 million in FY2002, and \$3 million in FY2003 also**" to AWARD INFORMATION section under the SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS and under IV. AWARD INFORMATION.
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- **Location:** 4201 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA
22230
- **For General Information (NSF Information Center):** (703) 292-5111
- **TDD (for the hearing-impaired):** (703) 292-5090
- **To Order Publications or Forms:**

Send an e-mail to: pubs@nsf.gov
or telephone: (301) 947-2722
- **To Locate NSF Employees:** (703) 292-5111

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Program Title: Assessment of Student Achievement in Undergraduate Education (ASA)

Synopsis of Program: This program supports the development and dissemination of assessment practices, materials (tools), and measures to guide efforts that improve the effectiveness of courses, curricula, programs of study, and academic institutions in promoting student learning in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology (SMET). The program also promotes the full integration of assessment with these educational efforts.

Cognizant Program Officer(s):

- Dr. Myles G. Boylan, Division of Undergraduate Education, Room 835, telephone: 703-292-8666, e-mail: mboylan@nsf.gov.
- Robert Simoneau, Division of Undergraduate Education, Room 835, telephone: 703-292-8666, e-mail: rsimonea@nsf.gov.

Applicable Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number(s):

- 47.076 --- Education and Human Resources

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

- **Organization Limit:** None
- **PI Eligibility Limit:** An individual may serve as the lead Principal Investigator (PI) on no more than one proposal per round of competition, but may serve as a co-PI on multiple proposals. In all proposals, at least one investigator must be a SMET faculty member.
- **Limit on Number of Proposals:** None

AWARD INFORMATION

- **Anticipated Type of Award:** Standard or Continuing Grant
- **Estimated Number of Awards:** 20 in FY2001, 20 in FY2002, and 20 in FY2003
- **Anticipated Funding Amount:** \$3 million in FY2001, \$3 million in FY2002, and \$3 million in FY2003, subject to the availability of funds

PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

A. Proposal Preparation Instructions

- **Letters of Intent:** Submission of Letters of Intent is optional. Please see the full program announcement/solicitation for further information.
- **Full Proposals:** Supplemental Preparation Guidelines
 - The program announcement/solicitation contains supplements to the standard Grant Proposal Guide (GPG) proposal preparation guidelines. Please see the full program announcement/solicitation for further information.

B. Budgetary Information

- **Cost Sharing Requirements:** Cost Sharing is not required.
- **Indirect Cost (F&A) Limitations:** Not Applicable.
- **Other Budgetary Limitations:** Other budgetary limitations apply. Please see the full program announcement/solicitation for further information.

C. Deadline/Target Dates

- **Letters of Intent (*optional*):** April 30, 2001; October 16, 2001 (for the November 20, 2001, proposal deadline); August 2, 2002 (for the September 4, 2002, proposal deadline)
- **Preliminary Proposals (*optional*):** None
- **Full Proposal Deadline Date(s):** June 7, 2001; November 20, 2001; September 4, 2002

D. FastLane Requirements

- **FastLane Submission:** Full Proposal Required
- **FastLane Contact(s):**
 - FastLane Help Desk, telephone: 1-800-673-6188, e-mail: fastlane@nsf.gov.
 - Ms. Antoinette Allen, Division of Undergraduate Education, Room 835, telephone: 703-292-8666, e-mail: duefl@nsf.gov.

PROPOSAL REVIEW INFORMATION

- **Merit Review Criteria:** National Science Board approved criteria apply.

AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

- **Award Conditions:** Standard NSF award conditions apply.
- **Reporting Requirements:** Standard NSF reporting requirements apply.

I. INTRODUCTION

The Assessment of Student Achievement in Undergraduate Education (ASA) program supports the development and dissemination of assessment practices, materials (tools), and measures to guide efforts that improve the effectiveness of courses, curricula, programs of study, and academic institutions in promoting student learning in science, mathematics, engineering, and technology (SMET). Assessment tools and measures can inform educational materials development, teaching practices (pedagogy), use of educational technology, laboratory practices, field experiences, curricular decisions, co-curricular activities, advice offered by academic advisors, departmental decisions about major course requirements, and the organization of educational activities, both internally and externally (such as links with other academic sectors--high schools, other two- and four-year colleges and universities, and distance education opportunities--and with employers).

II. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The ASA program is intended to both encourage and support the use of assessment materials (tools) and practices by SMET faculty. It is also intended to serve departments and institutional administrators interested in the measurement of student achievement in courses, curricula, programs of study, and the cumulative undergraduate experience. To help ensure that project results will effectively serve the SMET community, at least one investigator (PI or co-PI) in a project must be a SMET faculty member.

Assessment is needed to determine student achievement in a variety of learning environments (e.g., in laboratories or the field, working in groups or independently, using technology of various types or not), in different disciplines, and at different academic levels from entering freshmen to graduating seniors. In particular, assessment is needed to inform

- *students* about the extent of their learning and about the kinds of experiences that best suit their learning styles;
- *faculty* about the kinds of educational materials and practices that most effectively enhance the achievement of students from diverse backgrounds; and
- *organizations* about the types of resources that should be provided to accomplish their learning goals.

NSF has identified four broad areas on which projects should focus:

1. Developing and adapting assessment materials that can be used to improve the design and conduct of courses and curricula to achieve explicit learning objectives.
2. Developing tools, procedures and measures for assessing student learning or achievement resulting from a group of courses constituting a minor or major field of study.
3. Assessing the effectiveness of efforts to improve the undergraduate learning environment. Examples of such efforts are:
 - integrating materials from multiple disciplines,
 - increasing the use of student teams,
 - strengthening co-curricular activities (e.g., service learning), and
 - increasing laboratory and field experiences (exposure to research methods).

4. Developing *indicators*, which can be widely used, of student learning within certain domains, and *measures* of institutional program quality to inform colleges and universities in their efforts to improve education.

Program Tracks

In addressing the four broad areas outlined above, the ASA program will support projects in three tracks:

1. **New Development:** *developing new assessment materials (tools) and practices for use in single or multiple undergraduate disciplines.* Proposed projects may be either pilot projects to experiment with new tools and practices, or broader efforts to develop new assessment materials and measures. If the latter, proposals are expected to describe a disseminable product of publishable quality, describe a process for evaluating the validity of the product in a variety of settings, and specify a plan for preparing others to use the product effectively. Proposals should review existing assessment practices and materials (tools) that have been used to address the effectiveness of a course or program design in meeting learning objectives in the target discipline(s).
2. **Adaptation:** *adapting assessment materials and practices that have proven effective for one setting or audience for use in a new setting or with a different audience.* This may include projects to adapt and integrate effective assessment practices into the undergraduate instructional activities of a department or college. Proposals should review what is known about the effectiveness of the assessment materials and practices that are to be adapted, and projects should address conditions under which assessment materials and practices are *not* effective as well as conditions under which they *are* effective. Proposals should include a plan to evaluate the success of the adapted materials and practices in early applications, and a plan to disseminate information about project results.
3. **Dissemination:** *efforts to spread the use of effective assessment practices through workshops or Web-based materials that are thoroughly documented with detailed instructions.*

In the Project Summary of the proposal, proposers should clearly indicate the track that their project addresses.

The following provide some examples of possible activities:

- Projects to develop and refine assessment tools for formative use by disciplinary faculty in improving course design and instructional practices. These would focus explicitly on levels of assessment (e.g., basic knowledge, deeper comprehension, application skills, or ability to analyze complex ideas).
- Workshops for novice faculty designed to deepen their understanding and strengthen their skills in using existing assessment tools and practices in their discipline.
- Workshops for experienced disciplinary faculty, educational researchers, and employers to define areas where assessment needs and opportunities exist.

- Projects to adapt, for undergraduate education settings, instruments that have been developed for the assessment of SMET learning at the high school level.
- Projects to design measures of program impact in SMET.
- Projects to determine institutional quality in undergraduate SMET education.

Projects pursuing other objectives will also be considered.

ROLE, a Related Program Supporting Research on SMET Learning

NSF's [Division of Research, Evaluation and Communication](#) currently offers a related program, Research on Learning and Education (ROLE). It has four areas, or "quadrants," of concentration. The third quadrant supports "Research on SMET Learning in Educational Settings," which has broad objectives similar to those of the ASA program. In describing the third quadrant, the ROLE program announcement ([NSF 00-17](#)) states:

Many educational approaches, curriculum materials, and technological tools to mediate the learning process have been developed without the benefit of a strong research foundation. In some instances, this is because the appropriate research does not exist. In other cases, this is because of insufficient exchange of information and knowledge between research, development and implementation communities.... A principal expectation for research related to this quadrant is to provide a stronger base to support sustained improvement in science and mathematics educational practice in settings such as classrooms, informal learning sites (including the home), and technological learning environments (e.g., non-academic technological education).... In particular, ROLE seeks proposals that bridge research on science and mathematics learning with areas of educational practice associated with programs in the EHR Divisions and that include collaborations with investigators funded under such programs.

This area of concentration has the potential to contribute to some of the goals of the ASA program identified above. However, ROLE's third quadrant is more broadly focused on learning processes at all educational levels. By contrast, the focus of the ASA program is to provide a strengthened framework for improving undergraduate SMET programs.

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

The [categories of proposers](#) identified in the *Grant Proposal Guide* are eligible to submit proposals under this program solicitation. Projects may involve a single institution or a collaboration among several institutions (which may include business and industrial partners).

An individual may serve as the lead Principal Investigator (PI) on no more than one proposal per round of competition, but may serve as a co-PI on multiple proposals. In all proposals, at least one investigator must be a SMET faculty member.

IV. AWARD INFORMATION

NSF estimates that approximately \$3 million will be available for this program in FY2001, \$3 million in FY2002, and \$3 million in FY2003 also. Depending on the quality of proposals received and the availability of funds, the program expects to make approximately 20 awards each year, with award sizes ranging from \$20,000 to \$500,000 and durations ranging from one to five years.

V. PROPOSAL PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

A. Proposal Preparation Instructions

Letters of Intent: A letter of intent to submit a proposal is requested, but not required, by April 30, 2001, or October 16, 2001 (for the November 20, 2001, proposal deadline), or August 2, 2002 (for the September 4, 2002, proposal deadline). This letter should be sent via e-mail to due-asa@nsf.gov. This is not a preliminary proposal. It should be a brief statement that announces the intent to submit a proposal to the ASA program.

Full Proposal:

Proposals submitted in response to this program announcement/solicitation should be prepared and submitted in accordance with the general guidelines contained in the NSF *Grant Proposal Guide* (GPG). The complete text of the GPG is available electronically on the NSF Web Site at: <http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?nsf012>. Paper copies of the GPG may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (301) 947-2722 or by e-mail from pubs@nsf.gov.

FastLane (<http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov>), NSF's system for conducting business over the Internet, must be used to prepare and submit proposals. Paper proposals will not be accepted. Proposers should carefully follow the detailed instructions (<http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/a1/newstan.htm>) on the FastLane Web site. PIs who have not used FastLane before are reminded to make sure that their institution is a registered FastLane institution (see <http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/a0/about/registration.htm>) and to contact the institution's Sponsored Research Office (SRO) to be added to the NSF PI database. (All co-PIs listed in the proposal must also be in the NSF PI database.) PIs who intend to use subawards in their proposal (see [GPG, Chapter II, Section C.6.f.v](#)) are reminded that the subawardee organization(s) must also have an NSF Institution ID Number (or be a registered FastLane institution) before FastLane can be used to prepare the subaward budget(s). *New FastLane users should acquaint themselves with the system as early as possible--well before the proposal deadline.*

A Project Data Form must be submitted (via FastLane) as part of all proposals. The information on this form is used to direct proposals to appropriate reviewers and to determine the characteristics of projects supported by the Division of Undergraduate Education. In FastLane, this form will show up in the list of forms for your proposal only after you have (1) selected the correct Program Solicitation No. on the Cover Sheet and (2) saved the Cover Sheet. Take special care to identify the proper track for your proposal in Item 1 on the form.

For any audience code(s) marked in Item F (e.g., women, minorities, persons with disabilities), include in the Project Description a substantive discussion of the way the project will target and affect the audience(s).

A Budget Justification of up to three pages *must* accompany the budget forms and provide details about budget line items. Proposals that involve subawards should include a Budget Justification of up to three pages for each subawardee organization.

If Special Information or Supplementary Documentation is included with the proposal (see [GPG, Chapter II, Section C.9](#)), this section should be submitted as a PDF file using FastLane's "Supplementary Documents" function. (Paper documents should be electronically scanned and converted to PDF.) This optional section may include *only* the sorts of items listed in the GPG.

Organizations intending to submit simultaneous Collaborative Proposals (as described in [GPG, Chapter II, Section C.11.b](#)) must follow the instructions for electronic submission specified in [GPG, Chapter II, Section C.11.b.ii](#). The project titles of the related proposals must be identical and must begin with the words "Collaborative Project," and the *combined* budget requests of the related proposals may not exceed \$500,000. These simultaneous Collaborative Proposals will be treated as a single proposal (with a single Project Summary, Project Description, and References Cited) during the review process.

Proposers are reminded to identify the program solicitation number (NSF 01-82) in the program announcement/solicitation block on the proposal Cover Sheet (NSF Form 1207). Compliance with this requirement is critical to determining the relevant proposal processing guidelines. Failure to submit this information may delay processing.

B. Budgetary Information

Cost sharing is not required in proposals submitted under this Program Solicitation.

Other Budgetary Limitations: The total NSF budget request in a proposal (Line L on the Proposal Budget) may not exceed \$500,000. In Collaborative Proposals (see [GPG, Chapter II, Section C.11.b](#)), the *combined* budget requests of the related proposals may not exceed \$500,000.

C. Deadline/Target Dates

Proposals must be submitted by the following date(s):

Letters of Intent (*optional*): April 30, 2001; October 16, 2001 (for the November 20, 2001, proposal deadline); August 2, 2002 (for the September 4, 2002, proposal deadline)

Full Proposals *by 5:00 PM local time*: June 7, 2001; November 20, 2001; September 4, 2002

D. FastLane Requirements

Proposers are required to prepare and submit all proposals for this Program Solicitation through the FastLane system. Detailed instructions for proposal preparation and submission via FastLane are available at: <http://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/a1/newstan.htm>. For FastLane user support, call 1-800-673-6188.

Submission of Signed Cover Sheets. The signed copy of the proposal Cover Sheet (NSF Form 1207) must be postmarked (or contain a legible proof of mailing date assigned by the carrier) within five working days following proposal submission and be forwarded to the following address:

National Science Foundation
DIS – FastLane Cover Sheet
4201 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22230

VI. PROPOSAL REVIEW INFORMATION

A. NSF Proposal Review Process

Reviews of proposals submitted to NSF are solicited from peers with expertise in the substantive area of the proposed research or education project. These reviewers are selected by Program Officers charged with the oversight of the review process. NSF invites the proposer to suggest at the time of submission, the names of appropriate or inappropriate reviewers. Care is taken to ensure that reviewers have no conflicts with the proposer. Special efforts are made to recruit reviewers from non-academic institutions, minority-serving institutions, or adjacent disciplines to that principally addressed in the proposal.

Proposals will be reviewed against the following general review criteria established by the National Science Board. Following each criterion are potential considerations that the reviewer may employ in the evaluation. These are suggestions and not all will apply to any given proposal. Each reviewer will be asked to address only those that are relevant to the proposal and for which he/she is qualified to make judgements.

What is the intellectual merit of the proposed activity?

How important is the proposed activity to advancing knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields? How well qualified is the proposer (individual or team) to conduct the project? (If appropriate, the reviewer will comment on the quality of the prior work.) To what extent does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative and original concepts? How well conceived and organized is the proposed activity? Is there sufficient access to resources?

What are the broader impacts of the proposed activity?

How well does the activity advance discovery and understanding while promoting teaching, training, and learning? How well does the proposed activity broaden the participation of underrepresented groups (e.g., gender, ethnicity, disability, geographic, etc.)? To what extent will it enhance the infrastructure for research and education, such as facilities, instrumentation, networks, and partnerships?

Will the results be disseminated broadly to enhance scientific and technological understanding? What may be the benefits of the proposed activity to society?

Principal Investigators should address the following elements in their proposal to provide reviewers with the information necessary to respond fully to both of the above-described NSF merit review criteria. NSF staff will give these elements careful consideration in making funding decisions.

Integration of Research and Education

One of the principal strategies in support of NSF's goals is to foster integration of research and education through the programs, projects, and activities it supports at academic and research institutions. These institutions provide abundant opportunities where individuals may concurrently assume responsibilities as researchers, educators, and students and where all can engage in joint efforts that infuse education with the excitement of discovery and enrich research through the diversity of learning perspectives.

Integrating Diversity into NSF Programs, Projects, and Activities

Broadening opportunities and enabling the participation of all citizens -- women and men, underrepresented minorities, and persons with disabilities -- is essential to the health and vitality of science and engineering. NSF is committed to this principle of diversity and deems it central to the programs, projects, and activities it considers and supports.

A summary rating and accompanying narrative will be completed and signed by each reviewer. In all cases, reviews are treated as confidential documents. Verbatim copies of reviews, excluding the names of the reviewers, are sent to the Principal Investigator/Project Director by the Program Director. In addition, the proposer will receive an explanation of the decision to award or decline funding.

B. Review Protocol and Associated Customer Service Standard

All proposals are carefully reviewed by at least three other persons outside NSF who are experts in the particular field represented by the proposal. Proposals submitted in response to this announcement/solicitation will be reviewed by Panel Review.

Reviewers will be asked to formulate a recommendation to either support or decline each proposal. The Program Officer assigned to manage the proposal's review will consider the advice of reviewers and will formulate a recommendation.

NSF will be able to tell applicants whether their proposals have been declined or recommended for funding within six months for 95 percent of proposals. The time interval begins on the proposal deadline or target date or from the date of receipt, if deadlines or target dates are not used by the program. The interval ends when the Division Director accepts the Program Officer's recommendation.

In all cases, after programmatic approval has been obtained, the proposals recommended for funding will be forwarded to the Division of Grants and Agreements for review of business, financial, and policy implications and the processing and issuance of a grant or other agreement. Proposers are cautioned that only a Grants and Agreements Officer may make commitments, obligations or awards on behalf of NSF or authorize the expenditure of funds. No commitment on the part of NSF should be inferred from technical or budgetary discussions with a NSF Program Officer. A Principal Investigator or organization that makes financial or personnel commitments in the absence of a grant or cooperative agreement signed by the NSF Grants and Agreements Officer does so at its own risk.

VII. AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

A. Notification of the Award

Notification of the award is made to *the submitting organization* by a Grants Officer in the Division of Grants and Agreements. Organizations whose proposals are declined will be advised as promptly as possible by the cognizant NSF Program Division administering the program. Verbatim copies of reviews, not including the identity of the reviewer, will be provided automatically to the Principal Investigator. (See section VI.A. for additional information on the review process.)

B. Award Conditions

An NSF award consists of: (1) the award letter, which includes any special provisions applicable to the award and any numbered amendments thereto; (2) the budget, which indicates the amounts, by categories of expense, on which NSF has based its support (or otherwise communicates any specific approvals or disapprovals of proposed expenditures); (3) the proposal referenced in the award letter; (4) the applicable award conditions, such as Grant General Conditions (NSF-GC-1)* or Federal Demonstration Partnership (FDP) Terms and Conditions * and (5) any announcement or other NSF issuance that may be incorporated by reference in the award letter. Cooperative agreement awards also are administered in accordance with NSF Cooperative Agreement Terms and Conditions (CA-1). Electronic mail notification is the preferred way to transmit NSF awards to organizations that have electronic mail capabilities and have requested such notification from the Division of Grants and Agreements.

*These documents may be accessed electronically on NSF's Web site at http://www.nsf.gov/home/grants/grants_gac.htm. Paper copies may be obtained from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse, telephone (301) 947-2722 or by e-mail from pubs@nsf.gov.

More comprehensive information on NSF Award Conditions is contained in the NSF *Grant Policy Manual* (GPM) Chapter II, available electronically on the NSF Web site at <http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?gpm>. The GPM is also for sale through the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office (GPO), Washington, DC 20402. The telephone number at GPO for subscription information is (202) 512-1800. The GPM may be ordered through the GPO Web site at <http://www.gpo.gov>.

C. Reporting Requirements

For all multi-year grants (including both standard and continuing grants), the PI must submit an annual project report to the cognizant Program Officer at least 90 days before the end of the current budget period.

Within 90 days after the expiration of an award, the PI also is required to submit a final project report. Approximately 30 days before expiration, NSF will send a notice to remind the PI of the requirement to file the final project report. Failure to provide final technical reports delays NSF review and processing of pending proposals for that PI. PIs should examine the formats of the required reports in advance to assure availability of required data.

NSF has implemented an electronic project reporting system, available through FastLane. This system permits electronic submission and updating of project reports, including information on project participants (individual and organizational), activities and findings, publications, and other specific products and contributions. PIs will not be required to re-enter information previously provided, either with a proposal or in earlier updates using the electronic system.

VIII. CONTACTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

General inquiries regarding Assessment of Student Achievement in Undergraduate Education should be made to:

- Dr. Myles G. Boylan, Division of Undergraduate Education, Room 835, telephone: 703-292-8666, e-mail: mboylan@nsf.gov.
- Robert Simoneau, Division of Undergraduate Education, Room 835, telephone: 703-292-8666, e-mail: rsimonea@nsf.gov.

For questions related to the use of FastLane, contact:

- FastLane Help Desk, telephone: 1-800-673-6188, e-mail: fastlane@nsf.gov.
- Ms. Antoinette Allen, Division of Undergraduate Education, Room 835, telephone: 703-292-8666, e-mail: duefl@nsf.gov.

IX. OTHER PROGRAMS OF INTEREST

The NSF *Guide to Programs* is a compilation of funding for research and education in science, mathematics, and engineering. The NSF *Guide to Programs* is available electronically at <http://www.nsf.gov/cgi-bin/getpub?qp>. General descriptions of NSF programs, research areas, and eligibility information for proposal submission are provided in each chapter.

Many NSF programs offer announcements or solicitations concerning specific proposal requirements. To obtain additional information about these requirements, contact the appropriate NSF program offices. Any changes in NSF's fiscal year programs occurring after press time for the *Guide to Programs* will be announced in the NSF [E-Bulletin](http://www.nsf.gov/home/ebulletin), which is updated daily on the NSF web site at <http://www.nsf.gov/home/ebulletin>, and in individual program announcements/solicitations. Subscribers can also sign up for NSF's [Custom News Service](http://www.nsf.gov/home/cns/start.htm) (<http://www.nsf.gov/home/cns/start.htm>) to be notified of new funding opportunities that become available.

The Division of Undergraduate Education (DUE) manages several other programs supporting undergraduate SMET education. Details can be found on the division's Web site at <http://www.ehr.nsf.gov/ehr/duel/>. A short list of additional NSF funding opportunities for undergraduate SMET education can be found on the Web at http://www.ehr.nsf.gov/ehr/duel/links/other_programs.asp.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

The National Science Foundation (NSF) funds research and education in most fields of science and engineering. Awardees are wholly responsible for conducting their project activities and preparing the results for publication. Thus, the Foundation does not assume responsibility for such findings or their interpretation.

NSF welcomes proposals from all qualified scientists, engineers and educators. The Foundation strongly encourages women, minorities and persons with disabilities to compete fully in its programs. In accordance with Federal statutes, regulations and NSF policies, no person on grounds of race, color, age, sex, national origin or disability shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving financial assistance from NSF (unless otherwise specified in the eligibility requirements for a particular program).

Facilitation Awards for Scientists and Engineers with Disabilities (FASSED) provide funding for special assistance or equipment to enable persons with disabilities (investigators and other staff, including student research assistants) to work on NSF-supported projects. See the program announcement/solicitation for further information.

The National Science Foundation has Telephonic Device for the Deaf (TDD) and Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) capabilities that enable individuals with hearing impairments to communicate with the Foundation about NSF programs, employment or general information. TDD may be accessed at (703) 292-5090, FIRS at 1-800-877-8339.

The National Science Foundation is committed to making all of the information we publish easy to understand. If you have a suggestion about how to improve the clarity of this document or other NSF-published materials, please contact us at plainlanguage@nsf.gov.

PRIVACY ACT AND PUBLIC BURDEN STATEMENTS

The information requested on proposal forms and project reports is solicited under the authority of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950, as amended. The information on proposal forms will be used in connection with the selection of qualified proposals; project reports submitted by awardees will be used for program evaluation and reporting within the Executive Branch and to Congress. The information requested may be disclosed to qualified reviewers and staff assistants as part of the proposal review process; to applicant institutions/grantees to provide or obtain data regarding the proposal review process, award decisions, or the administration of awards; to government contractors, experts, volunteers and researchers and educators as necessary to complete assigned work; to other government agencies needing information as part of the review process or in order to coordinate programs; and to another Federal agency, court or party in a court or Federal administrative proceeding if the government is a party. Information about Principal Investigators may be added to the Reviewer file and used to select potential candidates to serve as peer reviewers or advisory committee members. See Systems of Records, NSF-50, "Principal Investigator/Proposal File and Associated Records," 63 Federal Register 267 (January 5, 1998), and NSF-51, "Reviewer/Proposal File and Associated Records," 63 Federal Register 268 (January 5, 1998). Submission of the information is voluntary. Failure to provide full and complete information, however, may reduce the possibility of receiving an award.

Pursuant to 5 CFR 1320.5(b), an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to an information collection unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The OMB control number for this collection is 3145-0058. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 120 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions. Send comments regarding this burden estimate and any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: Suzanne Plimpton, Reports Clearance Officer, Division of Administrative Services, National Science Foundation, Arlington, VA 22230, or to Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of OMB, Attention: Desk Officer for National Science Foundation (3145-0058), 725 17th Street, N.W. Room 10235, Washington, D.C. 20503.

OMB control number: 3145-0058.