



How to Write a Successful NIH R15 Application

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Preparation

- Conceptualize your project
 - Discuss with colleagues, NIH Program Officers
 - Revise and refine over a period of time
- Simple is better
 - Simple language
 - Straightforward ideas
- Specific Aims section is key
 - Use GWSW template as a guide
 - Review funded applications

Audience



- Write for the reviewers
- Reviewers probably won't be experts in your area
- Reviewers are overworked and underpaid
- Make it easy for reviewers to prepare their evaluation of and advocate for your application
 - **Draw attention to sentences that speak directly to the review criteria by using bolded text**



Students and Research Environment

- The goal of R15 is to provide research experiences for undergraduate students and enhance the research environment at the institutions
- Emphasize this focus in three separate sections:
 - Specific aims
 - Research strategy
 - Facilities & other resources



Specific Aims

- Train undergraduate and graduate students to conduct research
- Enhance the BGSU research environment



Research Strategy

- A specific plan about how to incorporate graduate and undergraduate students in all stages of the research process
 - What skills to learn
 - How to ensure student involvement
 - Outcomes of the training
- Enhance the research environment at BGSU
 - Describe existing research activities and resources
 - Provide students and colleagues research opportunities
 - Promote grant activities



Facilities & Other Resources

- Profiles of students and academic programs at BGSU
- Plans to recruit well-qualified undergraduate students
- Why is BGSU appropriate for an AREA grant
- The likely impact of an AREA grant on the PIs and students
- The likely impact of an AREA grant on the institution
- Support and resources at BGSU

Renewal Applications

- Renewal applications are essentially new applications predicated on the work you've performed to date
- Competitive renewal R15s show:
 - High productivity during current grant period
 - Results that provide a clear pathway to the new project
 - New project stands on its own merits

Make It Rain!

