



Serving the Shippensburg University community through good grantsmanship

TIPS FOR GRANT WRITERS

Summer researchers

How much pilot data do you need in your grant proposal?

When submitting research proposals to federal agencies, it is well known that you first need some pilot data. “But,” you ask, “how much pilot data do I need to include in my proposal?”

The purpose of pilot data is to convince your reviewers that you have sufficient experience and competence to successfully conduct your project. The general answer is you need enough pilot data to establish the credibility of yourself and your idea.

Your answer to these questions will help you determine if you have enough pilot data.

- Does my preliminary data support the hypothesis to be tested?
- Did I include preliminary data in well-labeled tables or figures?
- Does my preliminary data show the feasibility of my project?
- Does my preliminary data focus on my early results, or if using results from other labs, draw a clear distinction between theirs and mine?



- Did I explain how the results from my preliminary studies are valid and how they will be expanded?
- Did I interpret my results critically and provide alternative meanings for them?
- Have I explained how my early work prepares me for the new project?
- Have I included all experience that shows I can direct the research and achieve its aims?

By providing preliminary data in a new application, you build reviewer confidence that you can handle the technologies, understand the methods, and interpret results. Ask experienced colleagues if your preliminary data is sufficient.

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DEADLINES

To learn about recent grant announcements and upcoming due dates, take a look at the latest edition of *Deadlines* which is attached to this email newsletter.

You can also click [here](#) to view it online: <http://www.aascu.org/grc/pubs/DL/D12/D06/Jun12.html>. At the website, you’ll be prompted for the following login information:

- * Username = *supa*
- * Password = *member*

Deadlines is a publication of the Grants Resource Center (GRC) at the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). It includes program descriptions, priorities, complete contact information, and links for a number of funding opportunities sorted by discipline.

If you find a funding announcement that interests you, let us know. The staff at IPSSP will help you put together your proposal, obtain the necessary University approvals, and submit to the funding agency.

TOOLS FOR GRANTSEEKERS

Grant databases available through IPSSP

To assist you in your search for funding, IPSSP maintains subscriptions with two powerful web-based grant research databases, InfoEd and the Grants Resource Center (GRC). The chart below highlights the various tools included with these subscriptions and explains how you

can access the information you seek. If you have any questions, please give IPSSP a call, 717-477-1251. Shippensburg University pays institutional dues for access to these services. In an effort to not subsidize free and unethical use by others, we ask that you do not share this access

Source	Database	Description	URL	Access instructions
InfoEd “SPIN Plus”	SPIN	Funding opportunities database of national and international government AND private funding sources.	http://www.infoed.org/new_spin/spinmain.asp	Use the Quick Search or Advanced Search options to look for grant opportunities; you can also review new announcements from the Federal Register and FedBizOpps.
	GENIUS	Global network and database of investigator profiles of scientific and scholarly expertise.	http://www.infoed.org/GeniusSearch/genius.asp	Use Quick Search or Advanced Search with your research topic keywords OR names of researchers to build your network and identify possible collaborators.
	SMARTS	Automated custom search based on your own profile and keyword selection.	http://www.infoed.org/genius_live/create_new.asp	Create a username and password at the website. Once IPSSP authorizes your account, login and select keywords to match your funding interests. SMARTS will run a daily match and email you relevant funding announcements.
AASCU Grants Resource Center (GRC)	Deadlines	A monthly publication available online or in pdf presenting funding opportunities sorted in broad categories with due dates 1 to 3 months out.	http://www.aascu.org/grc/	Use “supa” as the username and “member” as the password to access the publication online; Deadlines is also transmitted via email monthly as an attachment to the IPSSP newsletter.
	GrantSearch	Funding opportunities database searchable by academic subject, activity, funding sponsor, deadline month, and text.	http://www.aascu.org/grc/gs/	Use “supa” as the username and “member” as the password to access GrantSearch. Choose your key criteria from the selection lists or type a keyword in the “select text” field.
	Targeted Funding Opportunities	A funding alert emailed directly to you from GRC based on your subject and function code criteria.	http://www.ship.edu/Public_Service/Funding_Opportunities/Custom-ized_Funding_Opportunities/	Use the subject and function codes presented at the website to identify your interests. Email your codes to IPSSP@ship.edu. We will forward your request to GRC; you should receive your alert with the next month’s cycle.



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This newsletter is intended for distribution among the faculty, staff, and students of Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania. Any questions may be directed to ipssp@ship.edu or by calling 717.477.1251.

http://www.ship.edu/Public_Service/