

External Funding Self Inventory

The following is a short Self-Inventory you may find useful to assess where you are in the research or external funding process. Jot down your responses to share with the Grant Development staff so the team can help you focus your research and funding plans or best meet your proposal preparation needs.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Can you narrow your research interests to a critical few? If so, what are they?

Have you searched for or identified resources in these areas of interest? What have you found?

In your department or elsewhere, have you gauged the reaction of your peers in regard to your research interests?

Have you discussed turning your research ideas into a proposal with the IPSR Grant Development staff?

PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS

What types of “themes” are present in your existing work?

What professional organizations or entities would be interested in learning about these themes? (audience, groups, broader impacts)

List your professional goals; what types of projects will enhance your career?

Have you examined peer journals to see what research trends exist? How do you fit in?

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Are you junior faculty or have you been in the field for awhile?

Have you conducted your own studies before? What was your role (PI, Co-I, Senior Staff, etc.)?

Do you have the time and skills necessary to undertake your own research or do you need support?

What type of support do you need? Does your department or university provide it or do you need to seek it out elsewhere?

COLLABORATIONS

Do you qualify for PI status? If not, do you have a mentor willing to act as PI or sponsor your work?

When you think of your research, will cross-disciplinary collaboration come into play? If so, how?

Will you need any type of technical assistance to collect, analyze, or interpret your data? Explain.

If a research team is needed, are all the members at KU? If not, which Universities will partner?

PROJECT DESIGN

What methods will you use to complete your work? Do you have the right facilities, resources?

Have you done any research on the actual cost of the project, human resources or otherwise?

How much time will you require? What dates will you begin the work and end the work?

Will any human subjects, compliance, or legal issues come into play?

FUNDING OPTIONS

Have you determined if your need falls into a category such as a contract, fellowship, or traditional grant?

Have you had a chance to identify potential funding opportunities or entities willing to contract you?

Can you enunciate the work in one statement? Your goal? The outcome? A proposal title?

Have you allowed yourself the appropriate amount of time to produce a quality proposal?

Interpretations: If you found yourself struggling to answer questions in the first three areas, it may be helpful for you to schedule a General Consultation with the Grant Office. We can help form a clear picture of how research ties into your own professional goals. Conversely, if you have explored the first three areas and are focused more on collaborations, project design, and funding you are likely ready to seek out Proposal Services. Contact the [Grant Office](#) for a Targeted Consultation to discuss your proposal or specific award you may have already identified.