



- The complete lists of FastLane and Research.gov automated proposal compliance checks effective October 5, 2020, are available on the [Automated Compliance Checking of NSF Proposals website](#).
- Note that automated compliance checks also apply when a proposal file update (PFU) is performed on a proposal. Proposers should be aware that if a proposal was previously submitted successfully, a PFU performed on the proposal will be prevented from submission if the proposal does not comply with the compliance checks in effect at the time.

### **NSF-approved Format Updates**

Based on feedback from the research community, NSF has enhanced both approved formats, and users are encouraged to use the latest versions. Please see the system-related [FAQs on using SciENcv](#) and the system-related [FAQs on using the NSF fillable PDF](#) for a list of the improvements to each format. In particular, note the permitted use of "et al." for publication citations in the Biographical Sketch when listing multiple authors. Senior personnel who wish to include publications in the products section of the Biographical Sketch that include multiple authors may, at their discretion, choose to list one or more of the authors and then "et al." in lieu of including the complete listing of authors' names.

### **SciENcv Enhancements**

The SciENcv module for creating NSF Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending Support documents will be updated prior to October 5, 2020; however, all SciENcv-generated Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending Support PDF documents created on or after April 1, 2020 remain compliant in NSF systems.

Prior to the October 5<sup>th</sup> requirement to use the NSF-approved format, SciENcv will make a number of enhancements that include:

- ability for users to reorder products and appointments in the Biographical Sketch
- ability for users to edit long author citations imported from ORCID on the Biographical Sketch and add "et al."
- addition of a Current and Pending Support tool tip to provide clarification and guidance on how users should document support under a fiscal year calendar

Please see the system-related [FAQs on using SciENcv](#) for details.

As a reminder, the SciENcv tool integrates with ORCID, enabling users to populate the Biographical Sketch by importing data directly from ORCID records rather than having to manually enter all the required information. This helps reduce administrative burden associated with the Biographical Sketch preparation process. Additionally, SciENcv allows users to grant access to delegates to assist with maintaining and updating data. SciENcv also offers users a dynamic and more customized PDF. For example, users with fewer Current and Pending Support entries may elect to use SciENcv to generate their Current and Pending Support PDF document since SciENcv will produce a PDF without any blank pages. Conversely, the Current and Pending Support fillable PDF will always be 15 pages regardless of how much data is included.

### **Latest NSF Fillable PDF Version**

- Revised NSF fillable PDF formats were released on May 1, 2020; however, the previous versions remain compliant in NSF systems.
- The May 1, 2020 version is indicated by "Revised 05/01/2020" printed on the first page of each form.

**Additional Training Resources**

To learn more about the NSF-approved formats for Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending Support, please view the [NSF PAPPG \(NSF 20-1\) webinar](#) and [NSF-Approved Formats for the Biographical Sketch & Current and Pending Support Sections of NSF Proposals webinar](#).

SciENCv has created the following materials to guide NSF users through the preparation of the NSF documents available in SciENCv:

- [NSF Biographical Sketch Video Tutorial](#)
- [NSF Current and Pending Support Video Tutorial](#)
- [NSF-specific Bookshelf Resource](#) (includes screenshots and step-by-step instructions)

**Other Updates for Proposers**

A revised *NSF Grants.gov Application Guide* will be published on September 16<sup>th</sup> and effective October 5, 2020. The Guide will be updated to remove references and instructions for the Research & Related Personal Data Form. NSF will no longer require this form, and this form will no longer be included in NSF's packages effective October 5, 2020.

**Questions?** Policy-related questions should be directed to [policy@nsf.gov](mailto:policy@nsf.gov). If you have IT system-related or technical questions regarding the SciENCv or NSF fillable PDF formats, please contact the NSF Help Desk at 1-800-673-6188 (7:00 AM - 9:00 PM ET; Monday - Friday except federal holidays) or via [fastlane@nsf.gov](mailto:fastlane@nsf.gov).

Regards,

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