

CONCEPT OUTLINES

Taken from the NSF Grant Writer's Workbook, page 19

A concept outline is a concise summary of a project idea that contains information about the prospective PI(s), potentially germane NSF organizational unit(s), project title, keywords, and brief narrative descriptions of the idea and fit to any special criteria required for the proposal type or funding opportunity (see Chapter I, Section D.1 of the PAPPG, <https://new.nsf.gov/policies/pappg/24-1>). The primary purpose of requiring a concept outline is to ensure that the concept being proposed by the prospective PI is appropriate for the proposal type/funding opportunity, and to help reduce the administrative burden associated with submission of a full proposal. Concept outlines are considered by cognizant NSF Program Officers to determine the appropriateness of the work to the proposal type/funding opportunity. Concept outlines are submitted either by email to a designated address or via Pro SPCT, (<https://suitability.nsf.gov/s/>). An NSF funding opportunity that requires a concept outline will provide directions on use of email or ProSPCT and specific guidance on email formatting or the completion of the webform to facilitate consistent identification and consideration of the respective concept outlines. ProSPCT consists of a dashboard and webform for prospective PIs to prepare, send, and track the status of their concept outline submissions. The ProSPCT webform uses dropdown selections, validations, and text entry fields with character-count limits to ensure users have provided the minimal complete information and met consistent formatting requirements based on the selected proposal type prior to submitting the concept outline. ProSPCT users must have a valid Login.gov account to access the tool.