Penn State College of Nursing Proposal / Award Budget Recommendations

Purpose

The purpose of the CNR Proposal / Award Budget Recommendations are to help initiate conversation between the Principal Investigator, Co-Investigators, Associate Dean for Research & Innovation and the Research Administrator regarding proposal and award budget allocation for effort (minimum and maximum effort for key faculty) as well as student support. Each proposal will have different needs and therefore proposals will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. These guidelines recommendations will lay a groundwork for what is expected in a typical research proposal.

Level of Effort

The level of effort can be hard to determine, especially for new faculty or faculty with little experience as a Principal Investigator. The table below includes recommendations for the level of effort recommended by the College of Nursing and information from the analysis of several proposals submitted throughout Penn State, *see next page for stats table. The minimum effort is set at 15% based on a one course buy-out for tenure track faculty. The PI should talk to the Associate Dean for Graduate Education when planning a course buy-out. Summer is not included in this table. The PI will need to decide what level of effort is appropriate over the summer and the level of supplement salary. Please note that supplement salary is not available during the academic year. Also note, senior faculty can be included as unpaid mentors and their biographical sketch and budget justification added to the proposal with an explanation about their level of effort. Senior faculty are expected to mentor junior researchers as part of their service initiatives.

Type of Proposal	Minimum Effort PI	Maximum Effort PI	Average Effort for Co-I
First R01	15% ACAD	40% ACAD	20% ACAD
Second R01	15% ACAD	20-30% ACAD	15% ACAD
R03 / R21	15% ACAD	15% ACAD	10% ACAD
Multi-PI	15% ACAD per PI	25% ACAD per PI	10% ACAD

Student Support

Penn State University anticipates that all faculty support students in one way or another. Students supported on sponsored research and outreach awards will benefit from the research and educational experience. The faculty, CON, and Penn State as a whole also will benefit from student engagement and involvement on sponsored research and outreach awards. If you are unsure how a student can benefit your project, please contact the Associate Dean for Research & Innovation or the Associate Dean for Graduate Education. They can help put forth a plan to use the student in a way that will benefit your project and the student's education. The table below is a suggestion on how many students to include on specific NIH research programs. Other solicitations will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The faculty have the right to have input and interview graduate students that will work on their project. The faculty will need to set up their own ground rules regarding publication rights with students who are working on their projects.

If the PI's effort is above 30% and the PI does not want to support a student on the grant, permission must be granted by the Dean in collaboration with the Associate Dean for Research & Innovation.

Type of Proposal	Graduate Assistant ACAD (Grade 16)	Graduate Researcher SUMR	Post-Doctoral Scholar
R01	50% effort 2 semesters per year Estimated direct cost $46,334*	50% effort 3 months $8,742 direct costs*	100% effort. Estimated direct costs is $66,107*
R21	50% effort 1 semester per year. The CON will support 50% effort for the second semester Estimated annual direct cost $23,167	25%-50% effort 3 months, 2 years $4,317-$8,742 direct costs*	
R03	CON will provide GA support 50% effort for 2 semesters for 2 years, if possible	25%-50% effort 3 months, 2 years $4,317-$8,742 direct costs*	

*Estimated costs for 2021 calendar year. Costs may vary depending on fringe rates, cost of living, and NIH stipend recommendations. The College of Nursing budgets for Grade 16 graduate level of support. If the graduate student's grade is higher when the project is awarded, the PI will work with the Research Administrator to fit the additional support in the current budget or discuss cost sharing options with the Associate Dean for Research and Innovation.

Conclusion

These recommendations were written for the purpose of helping researchers (new and seasoned) to get started with a proposal budget. Please communicate your program needs with the CNR as soon as possible before a proposal is due (at least 2 months before the required due date, if possible) so that the best plan can be worked out for the project.

*This is a quick snip from Penn State's proposal submissions to NIH in the month of July 2020. Other sponsors may include other student support or effort recommendations.

NIH proposals						
Research Type	OSP Reference	% PI	Ave % Co-I (s)	# of GA	Post-Doc	# of years
R01	216693	25	7	3	0	5
R01	216777	40	0	1	0	5
R01	216634	10	30	1	1	5
R01	216950	30	23	0	1	5
R01	216487	30	7	0	1	5
R01	216858	20	2	0	1	4
R01	216882	10	10	1	0	5
R01	216931	25	25	0	0	4
R01	216976	45	5	0	0	5
R01	216521	17	0	2	0	5
R01	217026	20	0	0.5	1	5
AVE: R01		24.7	9.9	0.8	0.5	4.8
R03	216981	5	5	0.5	0	2
R03	217064	10	0	0.5	0	1
AVE: R03		7.5	2.5	0.5	0	1.5

R21	217095	10	0	1	0	2
R21	217047	10	5	1	0	2
R21	217112	8	0	1	1	2
R21	216833	10	10	1	0	2
R21	217132	5	2	0	0	2
AVE:R21		8.6	3.4	0.8	0.2	2

College of Medicine's minimum levels of effort

First R01	40% (PI)
Second R01	20-30% (PI)
R03/R21	10% (PI)
Multi-PI Proposals	15% (per PI)
Subawards	No minimum: effort allocation should be consistent with Scope of Work.