

Components of a Competitive Proposal

- Clear presentation.
 - State what the problem or hypothesis is.
 - State why the issue is significant.
 - State what you are going to do.
 - Explain how you are going to carry out the work.
- Keep narrative focused on the project.
- Use tables, charts, and figures effectively.
- Mention the role that students will play in the research.
- Present preliminary results if you have them.

Agreement of Transfer of Trust

“The recipient shall use all funds ... exclusively for advanced scientific education and fundamental research in the ‘petroleum field,’ which may include any field of pure science which in the judgment of [ACS] may afford a basis for subsequent research directly connected with the petroleum field.”

Definition of the 'Petroleum Field'

The term 'petroleum field' as used herein embraces (1) exploration for, and the production, transportation and refining of, petroleum, petroleum products and natural gas, and (2) the production and refining of substitutes for petroleum products from natural gas, coal, shale, tar sands and like materials.

ACS PRF Advisory Board Committees and Research Areas

1	Synthetic Organic Chemistry
2	Geochemistry
3	Inorganic Chemistry
4	Physical Organic Chemistry
5	Surface Science
6	Chemical Physics
7	Polymer Science
8	Geology and Geophysics
9	Chemical and Petroleum Engineering
10	Materials Science

Research Must be Petroleum-Relevant

- PI must submit a 100-word description of how the proposal is "fundamental research in the petroleum field"
- This is not the same as the abstract.
- The relationship to the "petroleum field" should be obvious, not a stretch of one's reasoning.
- This statement is entered in a text box in the online submission process.
- Proposals with inadequate statements will be declined without scientific review.

Impact of ACS PRF Grants

- ACS PRF grants are known for launching careers. DNI/UNI “starter grants” have given many assistant professors their first peer-reviewed funding.
- “Seed money” grants emphasize novel research directions, and allow development of worthwhile but risky ideas (proof-of-concept data).
- To date, 26 Nobel laureates have received ACS PRF funding for their research projects.

Proposal Format, Submission, and Processing



Format of ACS PRF Proposals

- Text is limited to 4000 words, excluding 250-word abstract, references, figures, and tables
- Research should be a **single** project, with **limited scope**, not a number of ideas
- About half the text should be background and justification, and half on project plan
- PI must submit the names of at least six peer experts capable of reviewing the proposed research

Submission of Proposals

- All proposals are submitted as PDF files, through ACS PRF Web portal
- Proposals must be ***received*** by 5PM (Eastern) on submission deadline.
- **No exceptions or late submissions** will be accepted

Limitations on Proposals to ACS PRF

- Applicants may submit only one ND or UR proposal per calendar year.
- Denied DNI/UNI applicants may revise and resubmit as soon as they receive review excerpts.
- **HOWEVER**, applicants may submit only three “starter grant” proposals in a career; or have one DNI or UNI proposal funded.