Limited Submission Scoring Matrix
NSF Advancing Informal STEM Learning (AISL) Program
2019

Principal Investigator(s):

BACKGROUND & INSTRUCTIONS

A "limited submission" refers to a grant program that places a limitation on the number of proposal applications a single eligible entity can submit each cycle. The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) has a process in place to allow for an internal competition among interested PIs to determine which application(s) will move forward. Once a limited submission opportunity is identified, an internal call for pre-proposals is sent out to potential PIs. Those interested in being considered for full submission are required to submit a pre-proposal (ranging from one to five pages, depending on the type of program and sponsor) by a specified date. If more applications are received than the institution is allowed to submit to the sponsor, the applications are moved forward to a peer review process in order to make final selection(s).

That peer review process is what you are taking part in now. While we do want you to be aware that **the proposals you review here are *not* finalized and will be expanded before they are submitted to the sponsor**, we ask that you be as critical in your review as you would be if these applications were moving forward to a sponsor now. We are **especially interested in your feedback on weaknesses of the applications and where improvements can be made** either before they move forward through submission to this program or others.

If you are reviewing more than one application for this same program, we ask that you use the applications as a reference for one another in your scoring, knowing that the pool will be ranked based on scores received to determine which move(s) forward to the sponsor.

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SCORING

Selection of applications to be submitted to the **NSF Advancing Informal STEM Learning (AISL) Program** will be based on a 5-point scoring scale for criteria given below. Scores for each criteria will then be weighted based on program specifications.

No. of applications allowed per institution this cycle: 3

- Ratings should be given in whole numbers (not decimals).
- Reviewers should consider not only the relative number of strengths and weaknesses, but also the importance of these strengths and weaknesses to the criteria or to the overall impact when determining a score.
   - For example, a major strength may outweigh many minor and correctable weaknesses

   Minor weakness: easily addressable weakness, does not substantially lessen impact
   Moderate weakness: lessens impact
   Major weakness: Severely limits impact

SCORING RUBRIC

Score	Description
1	**Poor** – No evidence or information provided
2	**Fair** – Minimal evidence; limited potential; vague; weak concepts; limited likelihood of success; limited in innovative thinking; lacks sufficient information
3	**Good**– Some evidence; partially developed concepts; some potential for effectiveness and success; some inconsistencies; needs work; some innovation present; requires additional information/clarification
4	**Very Good** – Convincing concepts with enough examples of evidence to indicate a good chance for success; clear and complete; innovative
5	**Excellent** – Excellent concepts; exceptional evidence; well-thought out with an extremely high likelihood of success; exemplary; highly innovative

Borrowed from State of Ohio's Straight A Fund Application Scoring & Evaluation Process, Criteria & Rubrics

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SCORED REVIEW CRITERIA

Reviewers should consider each of the review criteria below and give a separate score for each.

Below, please summarize the factors that informed your individual criteria scores:

1. **Potential for Advancing Knowledge**
What is the potential for the proposed activity to advance knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields (Intellectual Merit)? All NSF projects should be of the highest quality and have the potential to advance, if not transform, the frontiers of knowledge.
Strengths: Weaknesses:
2. **Potential for Advancing Societal Outcomes**
What is the potential for the proposed activity to benefit society or advance desired societal outcomes (Broader Impacts)? Broader impacts may be accomplished through the research itself, through activities that are directly related to specific research projects, or through activities that are supported by, but are complementary to, the project. The project activities may be based on previously established and/or innovative methods and approaches, but in either case must be well justified.
Strengths: Weaknesses:
3. **Incorporation of Transformative Concepts**
To what extent do the proposed activities suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts?
Strengths: Weaknesses:

4. Project Planning
Is the plan for carrying out the proposed activities well-reasoned, well-organized, and based on a sound rationale? Does the plan incorporate a mechanism to assess success?

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

5. Qualifications of PI, Team or Organization
How well qualified is the individual, team, or organization to conduct the proposed activities?

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

6. Resources
Are there adequate resources available to the PI (either at the home organization or through collaborations) to carry out the proposed activities?

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

ADDITIONAL SOLICITATION-SPECIFIC REVIEW CRITERIA

7. Broadening Participation Plan *(Note: Only for those projects in which broadening participation is a primary goal)*
Does the proposal identify the characteristics and needs of the targeted underrepresented groups (public or professional) to be served? Does the proposal include specific plans or strategies for addressing or accommodating the specific interests, community or cultural perspectives, and/or educational needs of participants of the identified underrepresented groups?

Strengths:

UTSA.
Knowledge Enterprise

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Weaknesses:

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO APPLICANT

Reviewers may provide guidance to the applicant or recommend against submission without fundamental revision.

Additional Comments to Applicants (Optional)

Evaluation Scores

Criteria	Your Score
1. Potential for Advancing Knowledge	
2. Potential for Advancing Societal Outcomes	
3. Incorporation of Transformative Concepts	
4. Project Planning	
5. Qualifications of PI, Team or Organization	
6. Resources	
7. Broadening Participation Plan	
TOTAL SCORE	

UTSA.
Knowledge Enterprise