

Office of Sponsored Programs

Guide to the Preparation, Review, Approval, and Submission of Proposals for External Funding

Assistance in Proposal Preparation:

Contact with the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP), particularly at the proposal drafting stage, will help establish the proper sequence of events and thereby assure meeting the sponsor's deadline. The OSP can provide the following assistance: locating funding sources in government and private agencies; budget development; information on cost sharing, indirect costs, and employee benefits; formatting; developing a justification; completing sponsor forms; clarifying agency and institutional policies/guidelines; providing boilerplate information on the institution; assisting with the electronic submission process, such as for Fastlane or Grants.gov; and other related matters. Remember that assistance with grant development and submission are the OSP's primary goals and faculty/staff at all stages of grant development are welcome to contact the OSP for discussion. Early contact with the OSP is strongly encouraged to ensure adequate lead time for proper review and approval of grant submissions.

Approval of Proposals:

As described below, proposals are routed and approved within the University using the OSP Approval Form located at <http://www.elon.edu/sponsoredprograms> (click on "Forms"). The University may elect not to honor obligations undertaken by faculty or staff that have not been properly reviewed and authorized. The approval process is as follows:

1. Contact the OSP as soon as you begin thinking of submitting an external grant.
2. The Principal Investigator/Project Director (PI/PD) submits the proposal and Approval Form to the department chair or supervisor for review and signature. Budgetary information and statements concerning the availability and use of personnel, space, and facilities for the contemplated activity must accompany the proposal. The chair's or supervisor's approval constitutes an endorsement of all aspects of the proposal. When more than one department is involved, the proposal must be approved by the chair or supervisor of each department.
3. If the proposal is ready for submission, (all forms completed, budget developed, etc.) it should be sent by the PI/PD, along with the internal Approval Form, to the OSP preferably 3-6 weeks and a minimum of 7 days before the deadline. This provides enough time for review to assure it adheres to University and agency policies; to resolve any financial, administrative, or legal questions such as those related to conflict of interest or intellectual property; and to review commitment of University space, facilities, and services. In addition, the budgetary and other administrative provisions are closely reviewed. If the proposal involves complex administrative or fiscal arrangements, e.g., Grants.gov submissions, interdisciplinary programs, collaborations with multiple external agencies or institutions, additional time should be allotted for review and approval. *Please note, if other institutions are participating in the proposal, appropriate approval from those institutions should be provided to or will be requested by the OSP.*
4. The OSP will assist faculty/staff by securing approvals from the dean(s) or vice president(s) and academic affairs, and will assist with submitting via electronic portals such as Grants.gov, Fastlane, or to another institution who is taking the lead. All proposals require internal review and approval regardless if Elon is taking the lead or working with another institution who is taking the lead and intends to issue a subaward.

Contact Information:
Jenny Chapman, Interim Director, OSP
jchapman7@elon.edu; 336-278-6614