

FY2020 GEAR REVIEW PROCESS FOR NSM

Purpose: The GEAR program seeks to leverage research at the University of Houston, with exclusive emphasis on projects that will attract support from federal and other external sources. GEAR recipients are required to submit a proposal to an external funding source. The GEAR program cannot be used as a supplement to currently funded research.

Eligibility: All full-time tenured/tenure-track faculty and non-tenure-track research faculty are eligible to apply for GEAR funds except last year's GEAR recipients and previous GEAR recipients who failed to comply fully with the reporting requirements. Individual faculty members or groups of faculty members may apply. If you have start-up funding, you must provide additional justifications for the request.

Evaluation: The NSM GEAR Committee, consisting of one representative from each department, will serve as an advisory group to the Dean. The Committee will rank the pre-proposals, and the top 5–6 pre-proposals will be developed as full GEAR proposals and forwarded to the Research and Scholarship Committee (RSC) of the Faculty Senate for final consideration. Proposals will be selected using the following process:

- (1) Preliminary review of pre-proposals by the departmental representative and a second member of the NSM GEAR Committee. Approximately 15-20 pre-proposals judged as the most competitive will be identified.
- (2) The entire NSM GEAR Committee will review the latter pre-proposals, and the top ten will be sent to the Dean in ranked order.
- (3) The Dean will identify the top 5–6 proposals to be developed as full GEAR proposals and will forward this ranking via the DOR to the RSC, which will select the winners. Specifically, the RSC expects to evaluate ~25–30 full GEAR proposals and will select ~9 to be recommended for funding to the VP for Research.

Review Criteria:

- 1) Proposals will be judged on their intellectual merit, broader impact, and the potential of the research to be transformative.
- 2) The PI/PI team will be evaluated on the potential of GEAR funding to secure external funding with full indirect cost return over the next five years.
- 3) The PI or PI team will be evaluated on their record of securing external funding with full indirect cost return over the past five years.
- 4) For meritorious proposals that meet criteria 1-3, preference will be given to the PI or PI team that has received no GEAR funding in the last three years.

The schedule as outlined by the UH Division of Research:

September 27, 2019	Program Announcement
November 11, 2019	Pre-Proposals Due to the Colleges (nsm_research@uh.edu)
January 10, 2020	Announcement of College Selections
February 3, 2020	Full Proposals Due to DOR/RSC
April 20, 2020	Announcement of Awards
Jun 1, 2020–Aug 31, 2021	Effective Date of Award for 15 Months