

CCPI-CAST EPISODE 17

ADVICE FOR USING AI RESPONSIBLY WHEN PREPARING ATE GRANT PROPOSALS

CCPI-CAST Episode 17 provides advice for using artificial intelligence (AI) responsibly to develop Advanced Technological Education (ATE) grant proposals to the National Science Foundation (NSF). The August 22, 2025, webcast is the first installment in CCPI-STEM's *AI in STEM Education Series*.

Dr. Elizabeth Hawthorne, the host of CCPI-STEM's webcasts and a cybersecurity professor at Northeastern University, said the priority for individuals preparing to submit proposals to the NSF ATE program is to understand NSF's guidance regarding AI.

In December 2023 NSF issued a statement to assure people submitting grants that NSF reviewers would not compromise proposers' ideas by putting them into a generative AI (gen AI) tool or otherwise disclosing them. NSF also expects proposers who use AI to disclose how they used it. In December 2024 NSF included this statement in the draft of the *Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG)* for 2026 that is expected to be released in fall 2025:

RESEARCH MISCONDUCT means fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism (whether committed by an individual directly or through the use or assistance of other persons, entities, or tools, including artificial intelligence (AI)-based tools) in proposing or performing research funded by NSF, reviewing research proposals submitted to NSF, or in reporting research results funded by NSF. The Foundation's Research Misconduct Regulation is found at 45 CFR part 689.

During the webcast Cindy Tucker, a retired professor of computer and information technologies, shared these tips for using AI responsibly when developing NSF grant proposals:

- Do not use AI in the intellectual merit section of the proposal.
- Do not rely solely on GEN AI to write any section of the grant proposal.
- Check the accuracy of all responses generated by AI, which is known to fill gaps in data sets and "hallucinate" content.
- Verify each reference generated by AI.
- Make sure that information generated by AI "is not someone else's idea that it got from the training data that it used. You don't want to accidentally plagiarize from some other individual."
- In the fee version of ChatGPT, turn off the model training option.
- Use grammar improvement tools, not ChatGPT, to polish text using the professional setting.
- Consider using AI for budgeting, creating timelines, and developing dissemination plans.
- Report near the beginning of the proposal if AI tools were used and how they were used.

Tucker's final caution had to do with hiring grant writers. "Make sure that you know how an external grant writer is using these tools so as not to introduce biases, not to introduce academic integrity issues, and plagiarism issues," she said.

For more detailed information see *Quick Tips for using GenAI to Assist with Writing NSF ATE Proposals* in the webcast section of CCPI-STEM's website: ccpi-stem.org

FORUM WILL AIM TO SHAPE AI AT COMMUNITY COLLEGES

"From Roundtable to Roadmap: Shaping the Future of AI in Two-Year Institutions," is a forum the [NSF NAIRR Pilot Conferences: Capacity and Community for Community Colleges](#) plans to offer at the League for Innovations conference in March 2026.

This forum will explore how two-year institutions can contribute to and benefit from the [National AI Classroom Resources](#) and shape the future of inclusive AI research in technician education.

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