

**College of Education
University of Nevada, Reno**

Questions to Consider In Determining Whether to Pursue External Funding

External funding in the form of grants is increasingly important to support our programs of research, instruction, and outreach in the College of Education. However, the time and resources involved in grant application and, if successful, grant administration means that faculty members need to think strategically about whether a potential grant is a good investment of effort. In addition, while a successful grant can enhance a faculty member's career, the grant should also provide some benefit back to the department and college. Below is a list of things for faculty members to discuss with their director or department chair when deciding to apply for a grant and before developing the proposal. These questions also should be discussed with the dean of the college to ensure subsequent sign-off of the required transmittal forms.

- How central is the purpose of the grant to mission of the program, department or college?
- Is it a grant that supports research, instruction, or public service?
- What is the total level of funding? Is it a multiple-year grant?
- How competitive is the grant? How many awards are available?
- Do I (and my colleagues if multiple principal investigators) have a sufficient record of research and scholarship related to the purpose of the grant and/or the appropriate credentials in personnel preparation that would make the proposal competitive?
- Is this grant a good investment of my time at this point in my academic career? Do I have a balance of research articles and other scholarship to support my overall record toward promotion and/or tenure, especially if this proposal is unfunded?
- Does the grant require matching funds? If so, how much and what source of funds will be available for the required match?
- Is there an opportunity for a salary buyout? (20% for a one course buy-out)
- What is the indirect cost (F&A) rate? Who will share in these funds and how are they distributed?
- How much financial support is available for undergraduate or graduate students?
- Do we have the internal capacity or systems in place to support the work of the grant?
- Does the grant provide funds for clerical support?
- What are the implications for the department in terms of managing the budget or personnel paperwork?
- Does the grant provide funds for travel?
- Does the grant require additional space for personnel, students or equipment?
- Are multiple departments or colleges involved and are the administrators of those units in support of the grant?
- Are other agencies or universities involved? If so, contact the Office of Sponsored Projects (OSPA) to discuss sub-grant arrangements and the need for written agreements in advance.