Information about the NIH R15 program: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/r15.htm>

NIH R15 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/area_faq.htm>

**Faculty with a primary appointment that is not in a health professional school or graduate school are eligible for the NIH AREA program.**

**Faculty with a primary appointment in a health professional school or graduate school are eligible for the NIH R15 Research Enhancement Award Program (REAP).**

INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION FOR NIH AREA PROGRAM

**Profile of Students of the Applicant Institution**

Founded in 1890, North Dakota State University (NDSU) is a land grant institution enrolling 11,952 students in Fall 2023. Approximately 81.9 percent are undergraduate students and of the undergraduates, 89.9 percent are full time students. NDSU offers 97 undergraduate majors and 137 graduate degree programs of study in five colleges. In 2022-23, 2,980 degrees and certificates were awarded at the doctoral, master’s, professional, and baccalaureate levels.

A number of NDSU undergraduate programs prepare students to obtain an academic or professional doctoral degree in health-related sciences.  The 2022 NDSU Career Outcomes Report shows that 21% of NDSU bachelor’s degree recipients go on to pursue continuing education. NDSU offers professional Doctor of Pharmacy and Doctor of Nursing Practice degrees, as well as Ph.D. degrees in Psychology, Cellular and Molecular Biology, Human Development, Counseling, Microbiology, Biomedical Engineering, and Pharmaceutical Sciences, as well as a Master of Public Health.  Many NDSU graduates have continued their education at other institutions by obtaining terminal degrees such as Doctor of Medicine, Doctor of Optometry, Doctor of Dental Surgery and Dental Medicine, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Doctor of Physical Therapy, Doctor of Podiatric Medicine, Doctor of Clinical Psychology, Doctor of Chiropractic, Doctor of Occupational Therapy, Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine, and Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine.

**Special Characteristics of the Institution that make it appropriate for an R15 grant**

There is a significant base of research talent at NDSU with capabilities and interests that are relevant to the mission of NIH.  Both graduate and undergraduate students have opportunities to take part in active research projects in fields such as biochemistry, chemistry, nutrition, psychology, human development and family science, pharmaceutical sciences, public health, exercise science, veterinary and microbiological sciences, bioengineering, biotechnology, cellular and molecular biology, and informatics as applied to biology, biomaterials, and tissue engineering.

The state of North Dakota participates in the federal NIH-IDeA program and health-related research activity at NDSU has shown strong growth. As one measure of success, NDSU has been awarded research grants through the IDeA program from NIH to establish three Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE). The Center for Protease Research was initially awarded $8.25M in 2001; the Center for Visual Neuroscience was established in 2004 with an initial grant of $8.9M; and the Center for Diagnostic and Therapeutic Strategies in Pancreatic Cancer was created in 2016 with an award of $9.62M.  NDSU also received funding through the NIH IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence program to engage students in undergraduate research. NDSU has a Masters of Public Health program and offers the only accredited Doctor of Nursing Practice program in North Dakota. The School of Pharmacy offers MS and Ph.D. degree programs as well as duel-degree programs such as Pharm. D./Ph.D., Pharm. D./MPH, and Pharm. D./MBA.  A partnership with Sanford Health System, one of the largest health systems in the United States and the largest medical facility in the Fargo, ND and Sioux Falls, SD regions, offers exciting promise for researchers to better address the unique health care and nutritional needs found across the upper Midwest.

NDSU actively engages students in undergraduate research through classroom, lab, and summer experiences. Federal funding has provided opportunities for NDSU to host NSF research experiences for undergraduates (REU) sites each summer across a variety of disciplines. Students participate in research projects and partake in professional skills development while experiencing life on campus. The North Dakota Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (ND EPSCoR) program also offers undergraduate research support at NDSU. This includes opportunities for students to work in the program’s research centers and to apply for competitive student awards for conducting research with faculty mentors.

The Office of the Vice President for Research and Creative Activity (RCA) includes a faculty Director of Undergraduate Research, who develops initiatives and programming to support both students and faculty in undergraduate research endeavors. The Director leads NDSU’s NIH INBRE-funded undergraduate research program, as well as the RCA-sponsored NDSU EXPLORE program which includes an annual showcase of undergraduate research, an opportunity for undergraduate students to present their research. RCA awards student scholarships for top showcase participants. NDSU is also a member of the Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) and supports student involvement in its annual conference.