

University of California Cancer Research Coordinating Committee

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Version Dated: December 16, 2015

Please reference the [2016 Request For Proposals](#) (for Award Year 2017) for Program requirements

This document is a supplement to the Cancer Research Coordinating Committee (CRCC) Request for Proposals (RFP), and is intended to provide additional guidance to applicants. Based on questions we receive, it may be updated periodically and applicants are responsible for checking the [CRCC website](#) for updates.

Required Letters of Intent (LOIs) are due Thursday, January 21, 2016 at 12:00 noon Pacific Time

Full Proposals are due Thursday, March 31, 2016 at 12:00 noon Pacific Time

(Please note that deadlines appear as 3:00 PM Eastern Time in proposalCENTRAL)

How to Apply:

All application materials must be submitted online via [proposalCENTRAL](#). On the proposalCENTRAL home page (<https://proposalcentral.altum.com/default.asp>), log in to your account (or create one if you are a new user), click “Create New Proposal”, and then select “University of California - Cancer Research Coordinating Committee”. **Applicants are required to submit an LOI as the first step in the application process.** The full proposal materials are available only after approval of the LOI. Additional instructions regarding LOI submission are available in Appendix 1 of the RFP dated November 18, 2015.

Eligibility

1. Who is eligible to apply for CRCC funds?

UC faculty holding an Academic Senate title and employed at least 50% time on a UC-administered payroll with an effective initial UC appointment date of January 1, 2015 or earlier are eligible to apply. Eligibility for awards in the New Assistant Professor (NAP) category is restricted to faculty with an effective initial UC appointment date (for the purpose of merit and promotion timing) between January 1, 2012 and January 1, 2015. If the applicant’s promotion schedule has been altered for any reason, an explanation must be provided in the LOI.

2. Are clinical researchers eligible?

Clinical researchers are eligible provided they meet the criteria described in question 1.

3. Are adjunct faculty members eligible?

UC faculty in the adjunct series are eligible to apply if they are current members of the Academic Senate only. Academic Senate membership is determined by each individual campus. Consult your department chair if you are uncertain about your Senate membership status. Adjunct faculty who are not Academic Senate members are not eligible to apply.

4. I currently have a CRCC grant. Am I eligible to apply for another CRCC grant?

No, CRCC applicants are eligible to receive CRCC funds for nonconsecutive years only. Awards are for one year and are non-renewable.

5. Can CRCC funds be used to conduct clinical trials?

No, CRCC funds cannot be used to fund clinical trials or pay for patient care costs.

Application Process

6. Do I have to get permission from my campus to submit a proposal?

Full proposals must be signed by the Department Chair, fiscal officer and the campus Contracts and Grants (C&G) Office or Sponsored Projects Office (SPO). These signatures are not required at the LOI stage. Applicants may submit the LOI directly in [proposalCENTRAL](#) and do not need approval to do so. At the full proposal stage, the principal investigator (PI) is responsible for obtaining all required signatures and following campus proposal submission procedures.

7. What is the difference between the NAP and REG application categories?

The two application categories are New Assistant Professor (NAP) and Regular (REG). PI eligibility is outlined on page 2 of the 2016 RFP in the Eligibility and Exclusion Criteria section. Applications in the REG category are not allowed to propose projects that are logical extensions of existing research; applications in the NAP category may propose logical extensions.

8. Can I submit more than one LOI?

No. Only one LOI per applicant is allowed.

9. I missed the deadline to submit an LOI, can I still submit a full proposal without the LOI?

No. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept LOIs after the deadline, and only applicants who submit an LOI may proceed to the full proposal stage.

10. What is the LOI review based on, and how will I know if my LOI is accepted?

The LOI is reviewed for eligibility for CRCC funding in general and, for NAP proposals, for the application category specific requirements. Information provided in the LOIs related to proposal scope and content are used for review planning only and are not a criteria for LOI acceptance. All PIs who submit an LOI will receive an email notification by January 29, 2016. If you do not receive this email notification, please log in to [proposalCENTRAL](#) after January 30, 2016 to review your LOI status. Approved LOIs will automatically be given access to the full application materials in [proposalCENTRAL](#).

11. What counts toward the calculation of the research support for the award year?

This exclusion criterion is based on a sum of all **direct** support for the PI or the PI's research group, excluding indirect and F&A costs. This calculation should also exclude faculty start-up funds, salary-only grants and fellowships for the PI, or training grants for graduate students that do not supply research support. All PIs are required to disclose other current and pending support. Please use the Other Support form in the full application to disclose direct research support.

12. My LOI was accepted, and I received an invitation to submit a full proposal. Is the LOI binding or can I make changes?

The LOI should fairly present your research topic and proposed activities. Updates and adjustments may be made to the proposed scope and abstract when the full proposal is submitted. All full proposals are reviewed again for eligibility. Proposals that diverge dramatically from the LOI such that they no longer meet the program guidelines may not be forwarded for review.

13. I want to include figures and/or data as an Appendix. Is this permissible?

No. Everything that the applicant wishes to be evaluated scientifically must be contained in the five-page proposal narrative.

14. I obtained preliminary data in support of my proposal after the due date. May I submit it to the Committee?

No.

Review and Selection

15. What does the Committee look for in a proposal?

The review and scoring criteria for proposals are outlined on page 5 of the 2016 RFP in the Proposal Review and Scoring Criteria section. Please refer to these guidelines. The primary intent of the program is to provide seed funds for promising new projects in cancer-related research that are likely to lead to larger, long-term grants from other funding sources. Proposals from well-funded research groups and proposed research with funding overlap will not be awarded.

16. What is the success rate for CRCC proposals?

Funding success rates vary annually, based on the number and quality of the proposals received and on fluctuations in available funding. Therefore, past success rates may not be predictive of current or future cycles. Generally, past success rates have been approximately 30%.

17. My CRCC proposal was not funded. Can I request feedback?

Written comments submitted by the assigned reviewers will be available to applicants on [proposalCENTRAL](#) after funding decisions are complete. Please note that these comments are written before committee deliberations and therefore may not reflect the entire range of discussion related to the proposal or the proposal's final score.

18. I still have questions. Who can I consult for further information?

For programmatic questions related to the research scope, your award or future funding opportunities, please contact: UCRI@ucop.edu.

For questions related to the administration of a grant or reporting procedures, please contact: RGPOGrants@ucop.edu.

Please check our [website](#) for updates to this document and other program announcements.