

NIH F Award Workshop Series Announcement!

The Office of Research, Purdue Institute for Cancer Research (PICR), and Office of the Vice Provost for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scholars (OGSPS) are launching a writing-intensive NIH F Award Workshop for PhD students, MD/PhD students, or postdocs interested in applying for an NIH F award (F30, F31 and F32). Although we don't yet have numbers for last year's F30/F31 participants, previous workshops have yielded a 50 percent success rate. This year, we are extending the workshop to postdocs interested in F32 awards to help more Purdue trainees achieve their career goals in health-related research.

Why apply for an F award?

- Receive a stipend (and have the tuition covered for F30/31)
- Improve critical grant writing and communication skills early on in career
- Establish new collaborations
- Align with the development of thesis projects

Who should attend?

- 2nd or 3rd-year PhD students interested in the F31 award
- OR-
MD/PhD students within 1-1.5 years into their PhD studies interested in the F30 award
- OR-
PhD Candidates or newer postdocs interested in the F32 award
- U.S. citizens or permanent residents
- Eligible students who can commit to the 6-month schedule of lectures, draft-writing, and peer-draft reviewing (see table below)
- Eligible students whose advisor/PI can commit to the 6-month draft-reviewing and feedback schedule (see table below)

What will the workshop series cover, and when and where does it meet?

- The workshop will provide one introductory lecture and 5 main lectures covering different sections of the application. Each main lecture is followed by a Q&A session. Participants will have a complete ready-for-submission application at the end of the workshop.
- The workshop will run from September 23, 2025 to February 10, 2026, aiming for the submission deadline of April 8, 2026.
- Lectures and accompanying Q&A sessions will be on selective Tuesdays from 9:30-10:30 AM at WALC 2087.
 - o We record sessions if you have a scheduling conflict, but in-person attendance is highly encouraged.
- In addition to writing their own drafts, participants and their advisor/PI will each review one draft written by another workshop participant.
 - o The total time commitment for peer-draft-review should be no longer than 6 hours over the 6 months (reviewing 4 application-section drafts at 1.5 hours each, using a rubric, and having 1 week to review each draft).
 - o The review periods/dates are in the timetable below.

Topic/ Application Section	Lecture	Q&A Session	Draft Due	Peer & Advisor/PI Feedback Due
Fellowship and Workshop Series Overview	09/23/25	None	None	None
Specific Aims and Review Criteria	09/30/25	10/07/25	10/17/25	10/24/25
Research Strategy: Scientific Foundation & Rationale	10/28/25	11/11/25	11/14/25	11/21/25
Research Strategy: Approach	12/02/25	12/16/25	01/02/26	01/09/26
Candidate's Goals, Preparedness, Potential, Training Activities and Timeline & Sponsor Guidance	01/13/26*	01/27/26*	01/30/26	02/06/26
Biosketch and Other Documents	02/10/26	None	None	None

*Sponsors encouraged to attend

Why attend this workshop?

- **Expert instructors.** The workshop will be taught by Dr. Perry Kirkham (Coordinator of NIH Research Development, Office of Research) and Rachel Higbee (NSF Graduate Research Fellow, OGSPS Fellowship Writing Coach). Current NIH F Award Fellows (students/postdocs), and faculty serving as sponsors or NIH reviewers, will attend the Q&A sessions as guest speakers.
- **Ample writing time.** Participants will have at least one-month writing/editing time for each major section.
- **Hands-on learning.** Participants review peer drafts and provide feedback using an NIH-inspired scoring rubric.
- **Multiple reviews.** Drafts after each lecture will be reviewed by peer participants, instructors, and by each participant's mentor(s). Final application packages will be reviewed by additional faculty members before submission, and we are working with CTSI to provide a Mock Review Panel.
- **\$500 from OGSPS will be awarded to students who submit their F award applications after the workshop.**

Register for the workshop by September 16, 2025 at <https://redcap.link/FWorkshop>

If you have any questions, please email trainee-funding@purdue.edu

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