

Quad Chart FAQ

Q: What kinds of projects require quad charts?

A: The simple answer is any project for which you feel you have unique and important skills to lead and that you would find interesting. While that may sound like a strange answer, you must have a passion for any of the projects you propose. In addition, you can propose any project in which you think DoD (DTRA, Army, Navy, Air Force, etc.) might have an interest. Don't worry too much about "who" might be the right sponsor – the connection between your project and a specific sponsor can be very vague. For example, DoD probably won't fund cosmology research, but they have funded a lot of physics and other basic research without specific application (e.g., Townes, Smalley, Linda Buck, and many more Nobel Prize Winners).

Q: I am interested only in basic research. Is that ok?

A: Basic research is super; applied research is great.

Q: I am not interested in classified research. Is that ok?

A: Actually your development of a quad chart has nothing to do with classified research, since only the National Strategic Research Institute plans to conduct classified research

Q: What is the estimated response rate to quad charts developed by UNL researchers?

A: 100%. The portfolio we are building will be sent to those DoD program managers and leaders who are coming to campus, a sure indication that they already want to know what we are doing. They may not pick your quad chart every time and ask for a meeting, but they will see it.

Q: What timelines do you have in mind? Are these one-year projects? Three-year?

A: The timeline is limited only to the amount of time it will take you to complete the project (but probably no longer than five years).

Q: Can the time period resolution be a year?

A: Yes

Q: In terms of budget, what number do you have in mind?

A: There are no budget limitations; build a budget that reflects a good faith estimate of what you think you would need to complete the project.

Q: Should the quad chart budget include F&A?

A: Yes

Q: Does the quad chart budget have to be fine grained?

A: No, this is a rough order of magnitude estimate.

Q: How late can I submit a quad chart?

A: Submit quad charts as soon as possible. The sooner you provide a quad chart the more opportunities there are for it to be seen by DoD program managers.

Q: The Department of Defense currently funds a grant of mine; does that make a quad chart superfluous?

A: Absolutely not. In fact, current funding makes it even more important to send a quad chart because it will remind DoD program managers that UNL already has DoD involvement. As a result, we can update the program manager on your work.