

**UNL and UNMC
Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (SEM) Initiative
Fiscal Year 2019
Request for Applications**

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications must be submitted electronically by 5:00 p.m. on April 29, 2019. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be eligible for review.

INTRODUCTION

UNL and UNMC have designed this pilot grant program to stimulate inter-institutional collaborations and speed new competitive applications for Federal funding.

PROGRAM GOALS

The overall goal of this program is to initiate and enhance the competitiveness of inter-institutional research collaborations in SEM. SEM is defined as the application of concepts and methods of the sciences (including biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, and computer science), engineering, and medicine, particularly as they transform approaches or solve challenges associated with human disease.

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Any full-time, UNL or UNMC faculty member (tenure-leading, tenured or research faculty) from any College is eligible to submit an application, with the exception of any faculty who have received previous funding from the Bioengineering for Human Health or SEM funding mechanism. In addition, faculty that have received (or will receive) funding from the University of Nebraska Collaboration Initiative for a similar project are not eligible to receive funding from the SEM funding mechanism. However, previous awardees are eligible to submit as Co-PIs.

AWARD TOTAL: A total of two awards (up to \$50,000 per year for up to two years) will be made in 2019. UNL and UNMC will each provide half of the funding for these awards.

APPLICATION PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS

- Applicants **MUST** use the application template available at: <http://research.unl.edu/SEM/>
- Pages must have a minimum of 1" margins on all sides, and text must be in 11 point font.
- **Electronic submission in a single PDF is required.**
- At least one Co-PI from both UNL and UNMC is required with evidence that each is bringing a strategic expertise to the team. Applications must describe the specific contribution (roles and responsibilities) of the partners at each institution
- Electronic submission must be **received** by 5:00 p.m. on April 29, 2019. UNL faculty serving as the lead PI must submit applications through the internal competitions module in NUgrant (see attached "Guidelines for UNL Faculty to Submit SEM Applications in NUgrant.")
- Applications received after the deadline, or not adhering to page length or other formatting requirements will not be reviewed.

FUNDING LIMITATIONS

Funds may be used for supplies and technical support (technicians, biomedical informatics or biostatistics support, postdoctoral fellows, graduate students). Applications focused on computational biology or genetic engineering will not be accepted for review. Funds may **not** be used for the following:

- Faculty salaries (post-doctoral fellows, graduate students and technician salaries are OK)
- International travel
- Administrative support
- Large Equipment (over \$5,000)
- Computer equipment or support
- Remodeling, renovation, or construction
- Recruitment start-up or retention packages

REVIEW PROCESS

All proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by a UNL-UNMC committee. Finalist applicants will be invited to a face-to-face meeting to discuss their proposed research project with UNL and UNMC research administrators. Final funding decisions will be made by the Vice Chancellors for Research at UNL and UNMC by June 2019 for a start date of July 1, 2019.

SELECTION CRITERIA will be made primarily based on scientific merit.

Other criteria:

- Evidence that the research is founded on a true collaborative partnership.
- Research directly linked to federal funding priorities as evidenced by RFAs, FOA's, BAA's and/or Program Announcements that are described in the application.
- The team and project shows high potential for generating new Federal funding. The work does not overlap with or is not a continuation of existing federally funded research.

SECOND YEAR FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for the second year of funding, the PI must: 1) submit a report of progress and accomplishments before end of year one; 2) present those results in person to UNL and UNMC administrators, including plans for submitting applications for extramural funding. The Vice Chancellors for Research at UNL and UNMC will determine whether to release funds for year two or, to terminate the project based on insufficient progress.

Applications for SEM funding must include the following. Refer to the application instructions (<http://research.unl.edu/SEM/>) for forms and more information:

- 1) A **cover sheet** (form in the application instructions).
- 2) A **250-word abstract** in non-technical terms.
- 3) A **three-page** project description including the following elements:
 - ***Introduction & Specific Aims or Goals (as appropriate for funding source)***
 - ***Research Plan:***
 - Background and Significance
 - Preliminary Results
 - Research Design and Methods

- ***Timeline***
 - Project activities
 - Submission of one or more federal funding applications, with identification of relevant Program Announcement or Request for Applications
- 4) References or literature citations are not included in the three-page limit to the project description and may be listed on one additional page.
 - 5) List of project key personnel (form provided in the application instructions)
 - 6) A biographical sketch for each investigator. Limit of two pages/person.
 - 7) List of the current and pending extramural grants for all investigators (form provided in the applications instructions).
 - 8) A one-page budget (form provided in the application instructions) with budget justification.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on April 29, 2019. Applications submitted after the deadline will be returned to the applicant without review.

Applications must be submitted electronically as a single pdf file to the institution of the project lead PI:

UNL lead PIs must complete the application forms and upload a single PDF in NUgrant.
UNMC lead PIs email to deb.hawkins@unmc.edu

For additional information contact:

UNL – Office of Research & Economic Development (402) 472-2851
UNMC – Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research (402) 559-8444