

Grant Writing in Psychology & The Law

Funding your Graduate Research

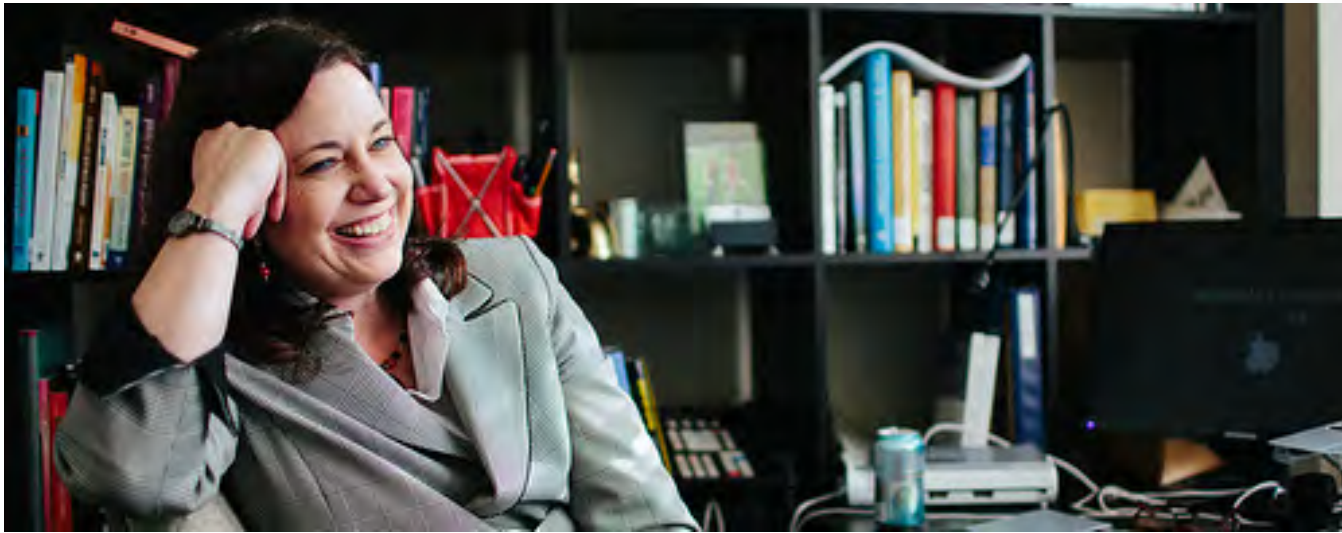
When & How to Ask Questions?

Anytime:

- Chat Box

During Q&A Session

- Raise Your Hand
 - My Mood -- Raise your Hand



Dr. Jennifer Woolard

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Thoughts about grants

Jennifer Woolard, Ph.D.

May 21, 2014

APLS Webinar Series

Key ideas

- Collaborate with people smarter and more talented than you
- Use Reverse Outlining to clarify your ideas while writing
- Ask someone other than your mentor or collaborator to read and comment
- Make the reviewer's job easier

Mechanical Reasons for rejection

1. Deadline for submission was not met.
2. Guidelines for proposal content, format, and length were not followed exactly.
3. The proposal was not absolutely clear in describing one or several elements of the study.
4. The proposal was not absolutely complete in describing one or several elements of the study.
5. The author(s) took highly partisan positions on issues and thus became vulnerable to the prejudices of the reviewers
6. The quality of the writing was poor - for example, sweeping and grandiose claims, convoluted reasoning, excessive repetition, or unreasonable length.
7. The proposal document contained an unreasonable number of mechanical defects that reflected carelessness and the author's unwillingness to attend to detail. The risk that the same attitude might attend execution of the proposed study was not acceptable to the reviewers.

Methodological Reasons

1. The proposed question, design, and method were completely traditional, with nothing that could strike a reviewer as unusual, intriguing, or clever
2. The proposed method of study was unsuited to the purpose of the research

- Know methodology, strengths and weakness
- Clearly identify gaps in existing studies' methodology
- Describe sampling and power calculations
- Clearly describe data analytic strategies

Personnel reasons

1. As revealed in the review of the literature, the author(s) simply did not know the territory
2. The proposed study appeared to be beyond the capacity of the author(s) in terms of training, experience, and available resources

- Pilot data helps – small grant?
- Collaborators, academic and practitioner, are important

Cost-benefit reasons

1. The proposed study was not an agency priority for this year
2. The budget was unrealistic in terms of estimated requirements for equipment, supplies, and personnel
3. The cost of the proposed project appeared to be greater than any possible benefit to be derived from its completion.

- Be painfully specific with your budget – this takes a *lot* of time
- Be nice to your Sponsored Programs staff
- Be realistic with staffing
- Be clear on responsibilities
- Take dissemination of results section seriously
- Explain the study's contribution clearly and simply from the funder's perspective

Helping the reviewer

- Follow the RFP headings/sections exactly
- Spend time on the abstract
 - “Thus, the abstract must accomplish the dual tasks of providing a concise picture of the study while also highlighting its unique characteristics” (p. 182)
- Avoid jargon – at least one of your reviewers will be outside your area of expertise. Some will include academics and practitioners
- Clearly state goals, objectives, hypothesis
 - “The proposed study tests three hypotheses...”
- Allocate time, effort, and space in proposal development according to the evaluation criteria

Helping yourself

- Talk with program officers
- Ask mentors, funding agencies for examples of funded (or unfunded) proposals
- Follow a proposal's development using track changes
- Use checklists of proposal components and timelines for completion
- Collaborate with community partners early in the process
- Apply for multiple grants
 - Reapply
 - Consider and respond to feedback but don't uncritically adopt all suggestions



Christopher Slobogin, J.D.

June 3, 2014 at 3:30pm(EST)

Legal Applications of Neuroscience Research