Q. What level of commitment will be required if our nomination is selected? For example, will we be expected to submit a certain number of grant proposals in a given year?

    A. There are no specific requirements of individual faculty members. The expectation is that groups selected as Areas of Research Excellence and Scholarship will continue to be active and productive by standard academic measures.

Q. "Commercialization" is one of the listed criteria to be used in selecting the areas of research excellence. Is it required to nominate an area that includes discoveries that can be commercialized?

    A. No, commercialization is not a requirement. The review criteria are intended to cover a diverse set of disciplines and topics. Therefore, we recognize that all criteria and categories may not apply to all nominations.

Q. Can we include supporting letters from collaborators outside of our campus as well as from program managers of funding agencies?

    A. Only the core materials requested in the Call for Nominations should be included. As noted below, references can be included as a separate section, but they are not required. Other materials will not be considered in the review process.

Q. Should we use the two-page fillable NSF biosketch (as for the Ignite grant) or just a generic two-page format that adheres to 12-point single-spaced text?

    A. Any format is fine, as long as it is only two pages, in a 12-point font, with 1-inch margins.

Q. Can CVs include current funding?

    A. Yes, current funding may be included.

Q. The call for Areas of Excellence states that up to three people can be listed to lead and organize a cluster or area, but is there a limit to how many people can be listed as collaborators but not leaders?

    A. There is no limit to the number of faculty collaborators contributing to the nomination. In fact, it is anticipated that many of the interdisciplinary areas will include relatively large teams of faculty from multiple colleges and campus units.

Q. Will there be informational webinars offered regarding the Call for Nominations?
A. There are no plans to hold campus-wide information webinars or town halls. Instead, members of the Commission have been encouraged to coordinate and host information sessions for their colleges, departments, and other units.

Q. Are administrative staff eligible to submit a nomination?

A. Administrative and professional staff are eligible to submit a nomination. Please recognize that the goal of this process is to identify areas of research excellence. Seeking collaborators with existing or emerging interdisciplinary research projects is encouraged.

Q. Is there a limit to the number of references cited in the proposal? Also, can the executive summary also include citations?

A. There is no requirement to include references. A list of references may be included, as a separate section with no page limit. The executive summary may include references, but these are not required.

Q. What if my proposal goes over the page limits?

A. Submissions that exceed the page limits or fail to meet the requirements outlined in the Call for Nominations will be returned without review.

Q. In drafting the cover page, when we complete the information requested, it only utilizes about half of a page. Do you expect the cover page to be short, or can we add more information? Also, the cover page doesn't ask for the names of the team members, just the lead(s). Is that intentional?

A. Yes, please only include the information requested on the cover page:

1. The title of the area
2. A list of participating disciplines/academic units/departments
3. The names of up to three individuals responsible for leading and organizing the collaborative cluster or research area
4. The target category for the submission
5. A list of up to five keywords