Information about the NIH R15 program: <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/r15.htm>

NIH R15 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/area_faq.htm>

**Faculty with a primary appointment that is not in a health professional school or graduate school are eligible for the NIH AREA program.**

**NDSU is not eligible for the NIH R15 Research Enhancement Award Program (REAP) for Health Professional Schools and Graduate Schools.**

INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION FOR NIH AREA PROGRAM

**Profile of Students of the Applicant Institution**

At North Dakota State University (NDSU), a number of undergraduate programs prepare students to obtain an academic or professional doctoral degree in health-related sciences.  NDSU’s Institutional Research Office can verify that at least 598 students who obtained bachelor’s degrees at NDSU have gone on to receive terminal degrees, either at NDSU or elsewhere, in the five academic years between Summer 2013 to Spring 2018.  Many of these students completed NDSU’s professional Doctor of Pharmacy degree or Doctor of Nursing Practice degree. In addition, Ph.D. degrees in Psychology, Cellular and Molecular Biology, Human Development, Molecular Pathogenesis, and Pharmaceutical Sciences are available at NDSU.  Many NDSU graduates have continued their education at other institutions by obtaining terminal degrees such as Doctor of Medicine, Doctor of Optometry, Doctor of Dental Surgery and Dental Medicine, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Doctor of Physical Therapy, Doctor of Podiatric Medicine, Doctor of Clinical Psychology, Doctor of Chiropractic, Doctor of Occupational Therapy, Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine, and Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine.

**Special Characteristics of the Institution that make it appropriate for an R15 grant**

Founded in 1890, North Dakota State University is a land grant institution without a medical school enrolling 13,173 students in Fall 2019.  Approximately 83 percent are undergraduate students and of the undergraduates, 89 percent are full time students. The average high school GPA for incoming first-year students is 3.48, and approximately 77% graduated in the top half of their class. NDSU offers more than 100 undergraduate and approximately 135 graduate degree programs of study in nine colleges. In 2018-19, more than 3,200 degrees and certificates were awarded at the doctoral, master’s, professional, and baccalaureate levels.  There is a significant base of research talent at NDSU with capabilities and interests that are relevant to the mission of NIH.  Both graduate and undergraduate students have opportunities to take part in active research projects in fields such as biochemistry, chemistry, nutrition, psychology, human development and family science, pharmaceutical sciences, exercise science, zoology, veterinary and microbiological sciences, bioengineering, biotechnology, cellular and molecular biology, informatics as applied to biology, biomaterials, and tissue engineering.  A growing number of undergraduate research programs encourage participation, including NDSU EXPLORE, an annual campus-wide undergraduate research showcase event that invites students to present posters and give oral presentations about their research projects.

The state of North Dakota participates in the federal NIH-IDeA program and health-related research activity at NDSU has shown strong growth.  As one measure of success, NDSU has been awarded research grants through the IDeA program from NIH to establish three Centers of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE).  The Center for Protease Research was initially awarded $8.25M in 2001; the Center for Visual Neuroscience was established in 2004 with an initial grant of $8.9M; and the Center for Diagnostic and Therapeutic Strategies in Pancreatic Cancer was created in 2016 with an award of $9.62M.  NDSU has a Masters of Public Health program with an innovative American Indian specialization and a new specialization in food safety.  NDSU offers the only accredited Doctor of Nursing Practice program in North Dakota, and the School of Nursing has been named one of the nation’s top (#73 in the U.S. among more than 3,000). The reputable School of Pharmacy within NDSU’s College of Health Professions offers MS and Ph.D. degree programs as well as duel-degree programs such as Pharm. D./Ph.D., Pharm. D./MPH, and Pharm. D./MBA.  A partnership with Sanford Health System, the largest medical facility in the Fargo, ND and Sioux Falls, SD regions, offers exciting promise for researchers to better address the unique health care and nutritional needs found across the upper Midwest.

NDSU is listed at 95 among 404 public universities and 138 among all 647 institutions based on the university’s research expenditures as reported to the National Science Foundation’s Higher Education Research and Development Survey (HERD). With more than $152 million in research expenditures in FY 2019 alone, NDSU is listed in the  survey’s top 100 institutions in several areas including: agricultural sciences; business management and business; communications; materials science; natural resources and conservation science; social sciences; sociology, demography, and population studies; and visual and performing arts.