

STAR Application Rubric: Life and Physical Sciences

The faculty committee will score all STAR LPS applications across six categories with a maximum score of 40 points. The process will evaluate all components of an application, including the project statement, the timeline, the faculty reference form, and the faculty mentoring statement.

LPS-Specific Categories

- 5 - Outstanding: All items included are high quality
- 4 - Very good: All items included with one or two at lower but still satisfactory quality
- 3 - Satisfactory: Includes all items but all are satisfactory quality
- 2 - Fair: Missing one item or includes all items but at least one is poor quality (lacking crucial components and/or difficult to follow)
- 1- Unsatisfactory: Missing more than one item or all items are poor quality

Category	Score	Evaluated and expected content
Introduction (x2)		1) Demonstrates appropriate knowledge and understanding of topic 2) Cites relevant literature 3) Makes connections to broader field or long-term research agenda
Aims, goals and/or research questions		1) Aims and goals follow logically from introduction 2) Includes more specific statement of problems to be solved or addressed 3) All aims are detailed, deliverable, and actionable goals
Approach (x2)		1) Approach follows logically from specific goals/aims/research questions 2) Sufficient scientific details to understand approach 3) Justification of approach, methods and decisions
Writing clarity		1) Consistent formatting throughout proposal 2) Grammar and sentence structure are correct and clear 3) Figures, tables and/or other visual aids are relevant, complete and discussed in main text
Timeline and roles (from timeline form submitted by mentor)		1) Mentor and student roles and activities are clearly separated 2) Realistic (i.e., reasonable workload for 40h/week over the 10 week duration) timeline that addresses all specific aims and goals

STAR Program Wide Category

	5 - outstanding	4 - very good	3 - satisfactory	2 - fair	1 - unsatisfactory
Likelihood of achieving proposed outcomes (from mentor statement)	Project is extremely likely to achieve proposed outcomes based on high student preparation and strong faculty mentoring plan	Project is quite likely to achieve proposed outcomes, with student having good preparation and faculty have a reasonable mentoring plan	Project will probably achieve proposed outcomes, but with some concerns about student preparation and/or faculty mentoring plan	Project may achieve proposed outcomes, but significant concerns about student preparation and/or faculty mentoring plan	Project is unlikely to achieve proposed outcomes, with the student preparation and faculty mentoring plan both being unsatisfactory