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National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Summary of Changes to NIH Biographical Sketch Generation and Requirements
NOT-OD-26-018

Overview

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has announced significant changes to the preparation and submission of biographical sketches (biosketches) and related disclosure forms. These updates, outlined in NOT-OD-26-018, align NIH with government-wide efforts to standardize disclosure requirements under the OSTP Common Disclosure Forms Policy and NSPM-33 Implementation Guidance. The changes will apply to all NIH applications, Just-in-Time (JIT) submissions, Research Performance Progress Reports (RPPRs), and prior approval requests with due dates on or after January 25, 2026.

Link to NOT: https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-018.html

Key Changes:

- **Mandatory Use of Common Forms and SciENcv: Science Experts Network Curriculum Vitae**, a researcher profile system for all individuals who apply for, receive or are associated with research investments from federal agencies. NIH will require the Biographical Sketch Common Form, the Current and Pending (Other) Support Common Form, and a new NIH Biographical Sketch Supplement.
- All forms must be generated and digitally certified in SciENcv.
- Failure to use the correct forms will result in application rejection or withdrawal. Initial eRA warnings will escalate to errors blocking submission by February 6, 2026.

1. **ORCID Integration**
   - All senior/key personnel must have an ORCID iD linked to their eRA Commons account. ORCID, which stands for Open Researcher and Contributor ID, is a global, not-for-profit organization and the ORCID iD is a unique, persistent identifier, free of charge to researchers.
   - The ORCID iD must appear in the Persistent Identifier (PID) section of the Common Forms.

2. **Certification Requirements**
   - Individuals must personally certify that:
     - Information provided is accurate, current, and complete.
     - They are not a party to a Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program (MFTRP).
   - Institutions must maintain internal controls and provide training on disclosure policies.
   - ONLY the investigator (not a delegate) may complete certification requirements.

3. **NIH Biographical Sketch Supplement**
   - NIH will continue to collect three agency-specific elements outside the Common Form:
     - Personal Statement
     - Contributions to Science
     - Honors
   - These will be submitted via the NIH Biographical Sketch Supplement in SciENcv.

4. **Expanded Documentation for Other Support**
   - Supporting documentation for certain foreign relationships and resources (e.g., contracts, in-kind support) may be requested during just-in-time (JIT) or post-award compliance checks.

Notable Changes to Location and Scope of Information included in the Biosketch:

Current NIH Biosketch	Biographical Sketch Common Form	NIH Biographical Sketch Supplement
Education/Training	Professional Preparation	*Not Applicable*
A. Personal Statement: Narrative, with active/recently completed projects (funding) and 4 product citations.	Products: Include up to 5 citations for *Products Most Closely Related to the Proposed Project*	Personal Statement: No citations allowed. Within narrative for *Personal Statement*, may reference education/training, experience, expertise and publication record (including referencing cited *Products* section). Limit 3,500 characters.
B. Positions, Scientific Appointments and Honors	Appointments and Positions: Include academic, professional, or institutional appointments and positions for the past three years	Honors: Limit to 15 entries.
C. Contributions to Science: Up to 5 narrative contribution descriptions, each with up to 4 products	Products: Include up to 5 citations for *Other Significant Products Highlighting Contributions to Science*	Contributions to Science: Provide narratives outlining up to 5 contributions to science. Limit 2,000 characters per narrative. You may refer to relevant **Products** listed in Common Form. *No additional citations allowed*.

There is no page limit for the combined Biographical Sketch Common Form and NIH Biographical Sketch Supplement PDF output.

Guidance for Generating Your New NIH Biographical Sketch

Obtaining an ORCID iD:

1. Navigate to https://orcid.org/
2. Click Sign in/Register (top right corner)
3. Under *Sign in to ORCID*, click "Register now"
4. Fill in your information (name; email)
5. Create a password
6. Add your current employment, or skip without adding affiliation
7. Choose a Visibility Setting
8. Create your ORCID iD
9. Sign into your ORCID account, and "View my ORCID record"
10. Review the content & update as necessary by clicking the "add" button: Employment; Education & Qualifications; Professional Activities; Funding; Works

More information here:
- https://support.orcid.org/hc/en-us
- https://support.orcid.org/hc/en-us/articles/360006897454-How-do-I-register-for-an-ORCID-ID

Linking your ORCID iD to your eRA Commons Account:

1. Navigate to https://public.era.nih.gov/commonsplus/home.era
2. Log in to eRA Commons using your credentials.
3. Click the "Personal Profile" button on the left side of the dashboard.
4. Within the Personal Profile box, click "Create or Connect your ORCID iD."
5. Connect to ORCID:
   a. If you have an ORCID, sign in with your ORCID credentials on the ORCID sign-in screen.
   b. If you don't have one, click "Register Now" to create an account. See more instructions above
6. After logging in (or registering), "Authorize Access" to allow the NIH to view your public ORCID information.
7. Once complete, your ORCID iD will appear in your eRA Personal Profile, confirming the link.

Note: Your ORCID iD can only be linked to one eRA Commons account, so ensure you're connecting to the correct one!

More information here:

- https://www.era.nih.gov/erahelp/commons/PPF_Help/8_2_orcid.htm

Creating your Biosketch in SciENcv

1. Navigate to https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sciencv/
2. Log in using your eRA Comments credentials
3. Under "My Documents" click "+ New Document"
4. Title your NIH Biosketch Common Form. Consider adding a modifier that makes it clear the date or the funding opp that this is targeted towards
5. Under "Document Type" drop-down menu, select "NIH Biographical Sketch Common Form"
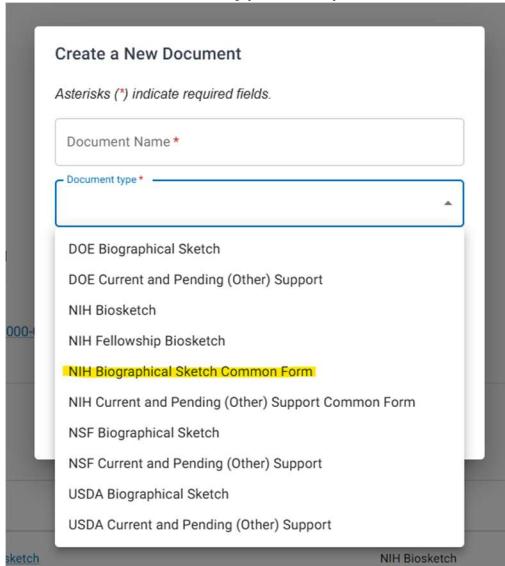
6. Select a Data Source. Consider using your ORCID or eRA Commons account to easily import personal information and link publications.
7. Within the "NIH Biographical Sketch Common Form," there will be data imported from your source (or it will be blank). Review and revise, as necessary.
    a. **Professional Preparation**: List education and training in reverse chronological order by start date
    b. **Appointments & Positions**: List academic, professional, or institutional appointments and positions in reverse chronological order by start date
    c. **Products**: You may provide up to five *products closely related to the proposed project* and up to five *other significant products highlighting contributions to science*.
8. Under "NIH Biographical Sketch Supplement," complete the following sections:
    a. **Personal Statement**: Describe your training, expertise, accomplishments, etc. that support your ability to complete your activities outlined in the application. You may highlight ongoing and completed research projects from the past three years. Limit: 3,500 characters
    b. **Honors**: list up to 15 academic and professional achievements/honors.
    c. **Contributions to Science**: Briefly describe up to five of your most significant contributions to science. Each contribution narrative is limited to 2,000 characters, which should include:
        i. the historical background that frames the scientific problem;
        ii. the central finding(s);
        iii. the influence of the finding(s) on the progress of science or the application of those finding(s) to health or technology; and
        iv. your specific role in the described work.
        v. Within your contributions narratives, you may reference produced included in **Products** section of the Common Form. *Do not provide citations on the NIH Biographical Sketch Supplement.*
9. Certifications: Each Key Person must certify:
    a. Information herein is current, accurate, and complete;
    b. I am not a party to a malign foreign talent recruitment program; and
    c. I have taken required research security training.
10. Click the "View Draft" button to review the filled forms.

Other Links & Resources:

- https://grants.nih.gov/grants-process/write-application/forms-directory/biographical-sketch-common-form
- https://grants.nih.gov/grants-process/write-application/forms-directory/nih-biographical-sketch-supplement
- https://grants.nih.gov/faqs#/common-forms-biographical-sketch-current-pending-support.htm

Additional resources, including training videos will be posted on Common Forms for Biographical Sketch and Current and Pending (Other) Support as they become available.