



NBME Emerging Innovators Grant Program

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The application has two components: content that will be submitted via question prompts in Submittable and content that should be uploaded as a single combined PDF document in Submittable.

TO BE COMPLETED IN SUBMITTABLE

- **Applicant Institution**
- **Principal Investigator / Institution Contact**
This individual will be responsible for submitting the application and will receive notifications regarding application status.
- **Institution's Authorized Representative**
This individual or office contact has responsibility for reviewing and signing contracts and is usually an organization's contracts or grants administrator.
- **Acknowledgement of non-commercialization**
As part of NBME's Community Collaborations and Contributions programs, the Emerging Innovators Grant Program supports medical education and assessment communities to drive future innovations. The Program is not intended to support work to develop commercialized assessment products or services. The Emerging Innovators Grant Program selection committee will not consider any such proposals for funding.
- **Abstract (350 word maximum)**
 - Describe the specific aims of the proposed project as well as any other applicable long-term objectives. Include a brief description of the research design and methods for achieving the stated goals. Address how this proposal supports equitable and/or innovative assessment in medical education.
 - Write in plain language, so a reviewer without a research background will be able to understand the importance of the project.

DOCUMENT UPLOAD

Please upload a single PDF which combines the following documents together.

1. Program Description. (Maximum of 6 pages.)
2. Proposal Budget. (See attached template.)
3. Detailed Project Timeline. (Maximum of 1 page.)
4. Curriculum Vitae from each member of the team.
5. Existing IRB approvals or any IRB applications in process, as applicable.
6. Letter(s) of Support from institutional leadership.

1. Program Description

Describe your proposed project according to the prompts below. The description should be double-spaced and written in 12-point font with 1-inch margins. If references are cited, this will not be considered part of the page count.
(Maximum of 6 pages.)

Introduction

- Why is the topic important to medical education assessment?
- How does the project impact issues related to this year's theme of Promoting Equitable and Innovative Assessment in Medical Education?
- Please cite literature on what is already known about the topic and how this identifies the existing gap.
- A clear statement of hypothesis (if a research study) or a clear description of project scope and purpose (if an implementation project).

Methods/Materials

- Description of a methodology that is appropriate to the question(s) or project plan.
- A clear and detailed study design / implementation plan including elements such as: a description of population to be studied or involved, the types of instruments or techniques planned for measurement with a rationale, including any validity evidence for the instruments selected, and if instruments or materials are to be developed, how this is feasible for the scope and timetable of the project.

Evaluation/Analysis

- An evaluation plan that is appropriate for the study design and one that links to the anticipated outcomes and results.
- Rationale for the evaluation(s) or statistical methods selected.

Anticipated Outcomes and Results

- Discussion of the anticipated primary and any relevant secondary outcomes and how they will contribute to greater equity in medical education assessment.

Collaboration and Mentoring

- A description of the proposed mentor/mentee relationship(s). Explain what each will bring to the project and/or will gain during the project.
- Explain how you will involve diverse stakeholders (e.g., organizations, students, educators, perspectives) in this process (if applicable).

Future steps

- Description of the next steps (for example, scale up or further funding potential), generalized use of the project results or findings, or potential integration into other learning settings.

Citations

- Use any format for reference citations.
- This section does not count toward the program description page limit.

2. Budget

Please use the template to create a clear breakdown of the budget, including itemized expenses and justification for each cost. Indirect costs may not exceed 10% of the total requested grant amount.

3. Detailed Timeline

Please include a project plan outlining key milestones, activities and deliverables, preferably as a visual timeline. The timeline should not exceed one page.

4. Biographical sketch

Please include a current [biosketch](#) for each member of the research team.

5. Existing IRB approvals or any IRB applications in process

Please include any documents related to IRB application or approval.

6. Letter(s) of Support

Please include one or more letter(s) of support from institutional leadership (Division/Department Director, Dean, other program leader, etc.) for the project and for endorsement of the PI's involvement in the project.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following factors:

- Thematic alignment to the call for proposals.
- The potential to address outcomes in medical education related to at least one of the following:
 - Designing assessments that create a novel approach to measuring specific competencies.
 - Creating high-quality assessment processes that support fair and consistent assessment experiences.
 - Assessing the implementation of a novel program of instruction and/or assessment.
- Feasibility of achieving the project's intended aims, including demonstration of the appropriate skill level of the proposed team, available technology, mentorship, resources, and program evaluation plan.
- Potential for meaningful impact at the institution and beyond, including scalability within medical education.
- Collaboration among departments (disciplines), faculty members, or institutions. We encourage proposals from teams that include a breadth of backgrounds, experiences, perspectives, and knowledge.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR COMPLETED PROPOSAL

All documents to be uploaded should be in PDF format. You are required to submit both individual, blinded sections of the proposal and a complete identified copy of your proposal to NBME's platform, "Submittable." Blinded versions should redact or omit any identifying names of individuals and institutions.

If you have not previously used Submittable, please create a profile by clicking here: <https://nbme.submittable.com/signup>. Once you have completed this step, complete the application form and follow the instructions for uploading your information and application document.

If you have previously used the Submittable platform for other grant or review work for NBME, your submissions were connected to the user email address on file. Your submissions will appear on your dashboard labeled with the title of your submission and previous submission ID number. That information may be accessed here: <https://nbme.submittable.com/login>

All submissions are due by Monday, **June 15, 2026** at 11:59 p.m. (Eastern US)

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email NBMEInnovatorsGrant@nbme.org.