Scored Review Criteria

Instructions: Please review the (up to) six primary applications assigned to you. Our priority is to identify candidates we believe can successfully compete for extramural funding during the next two years. Applicants should demonstrate a strong interest in furthering the quality and scope of clinical and translational research.

Reviewers will consider each of the review criteria below in the determination of research merit and will give a separate score for each. An application does not need to be strong in all categories to be judged likely to have impact.

Applicant Criteria: Each applicant you have been assigned has met the base criteria for the VPCAT Research Scholars Program. These include:

- Instructor, Assistant Professor (Associate Professor only under exceptional circumstances)
- Within 5 years of completing terminal degree, post-doc, or clinical training
- ≥ 30% time committed by Dean/Department Chair/Division Chief
- Guaranteed release time for Orientation, curriculum
- Commitment to apply for external funding during two years of program
- Has not been a PI (or equivalent), a subproject of a program project (P01) or center grant (P50, U54) or equivalent PHS research grant award, or have been the recipient of an externally-funded, multi-year career development award (K series or equivalent). Some applicants with previous funding have made a strong case for VPCAT consideration. Exceptions to this may be made only by request and with reasonable justification.

Scoring: Using the reviewer system within Competition Space, please score and make comments on the strengths and weaknesses in each category, following the scoring criteria below. The five categories you will be asked to review are: Career Plan, Scientific Mentoring Plan, Research Plan, Institutional Support, and Applicant’s Overall Potential.

**All comments and scores will be shared with all applicants for the program as part of a template response.**
Scoring Guidelines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Impact Score</th>
<th>Descriptor</th>
<th>Additional Guidance on Strengths/Weaknesses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Exceptional</td>
<td>Exceptionally strong with essentially no weaknesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Outstanding</td>
<td>Extremely strong with negligible weaknesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Very strong with only some minor weaknesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
<td>Strong but with only some minor weaknesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Strong but with at least one moderate weakness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
<td>Some strengths but also some moderate weaknesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Some strengths but with at least one major weakness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Marginal</td>
<td>A few strengths and a few major weaknesses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Very few strengths and numerous major weaknesses</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scoring Criteria

Career Plan

- Does the candidate have a clearly defined and appropriate career vision and an important research niche?
- Are there adequate plans for evaluating the candidate’s research and career development progress?
- What is the likelihood that the candidate’s career development plan will contribute to their success in submitting career development grants and lead to independent researcher status?
- Are the content, scope, phasing, and duration of the career development plan appropriate when considered in the context of prior training/research experience and the stated training and research objectives for the VPCAT Program?

Scientific Mentoring Plan

Are the scientific mentor’s qualifications in the area of proposed research appropriate?

- Does the mentor(s) adequately address the candidate’s potential and his/her strengths and areas for improvement?
- Is the role in which the mentor will play in the candidate’s research described adequately in their letter of support?
- Is active/pending support for the proposed research project adequate and appropriate?
- Are there adequate plans for monitoring and evaluating the scholar’s progress towards their stated career and research objectives?

Research Plan

- Does the candidate address the significance and innovation of the project clearly and comprehensively?
- Does the candidate provide a clear and compelling description of the research they would like to put forward for independent funding?
Does the candidate have sufficient research experience in the field and provide adequate description of their previous efforts?

Does the candidate clearly describe what their future research plans are and how they plan to achieve them?

Does the research plan adequately support the candidate’s research career objectives?

Is the research plan appropriate to the candidate’s stage of research development and to developing the research skills described in the career development plan?

---

**Ancillary Information**

**Institutional Support**

- Does the letter accompanying the application for this candidate state the percentage FTE the candidate will be allocated for research?
- Is there evidence of clear commitment on the part of the Department/College to ensure that the remaining percent effort will be devoted to an appropriate balance of research, teaching, administrative, and clinical responsibilities?
- Does the promised FTE allocation meet minimum VPCAT Program requirements (at least 30% FTE guaranteed for research)?
- Is there evidence that the candidate will be given release time to attend Orientation, Leadership I and II training sessions, and monthly training sessions?

---

**Applicant’s Overall Potential**

- Does the candidate have a strong likelihood of being able to contribute over the long term to clinical and translational research?
- Does the candidate have the potential to develop as an independent and productive researcher within their field?
- Is the candidate’s prior experience (training and research) appropriate for the VPCAT Program?
- Does the candidate’s research plan exhibit a strong likelihood that the applicant could obtain external funding within two years?
- Is the candidate’s academic, clinical (if relevant), and research record of high quality?
- Is there sufficient evidence of the candidate’s commitment to meeting the program objectives?
- Do the letters of support address the above review criteria and do they provide evidence that the candidate has a high potential for becoming an independent investigator?
- Does the overall application demonstrate the applicant’s research and career plans in a cohesive and overarching strategy that will lead them to academic success?
- Would the candidate benefit from the VPCAT Program?