NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM (**NSF GRFP**) WORKSHOP

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Gulf States Math Alliance 2019 Conference
The University of Texas at Arlington
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What is the NSF GRFP?

https://www.nsfgrfp.org/

- **Award Description**
  - Graduate level national fellowship supporting individuals in their **early graduate careers**
  - Demonstrated potential for significant research in STEM fields
  - Awarded to about **1500** applicants nationwide
  - Past fellows include numerous **Nobel Prize winners, US Secretary of Energy, and Google Founder**

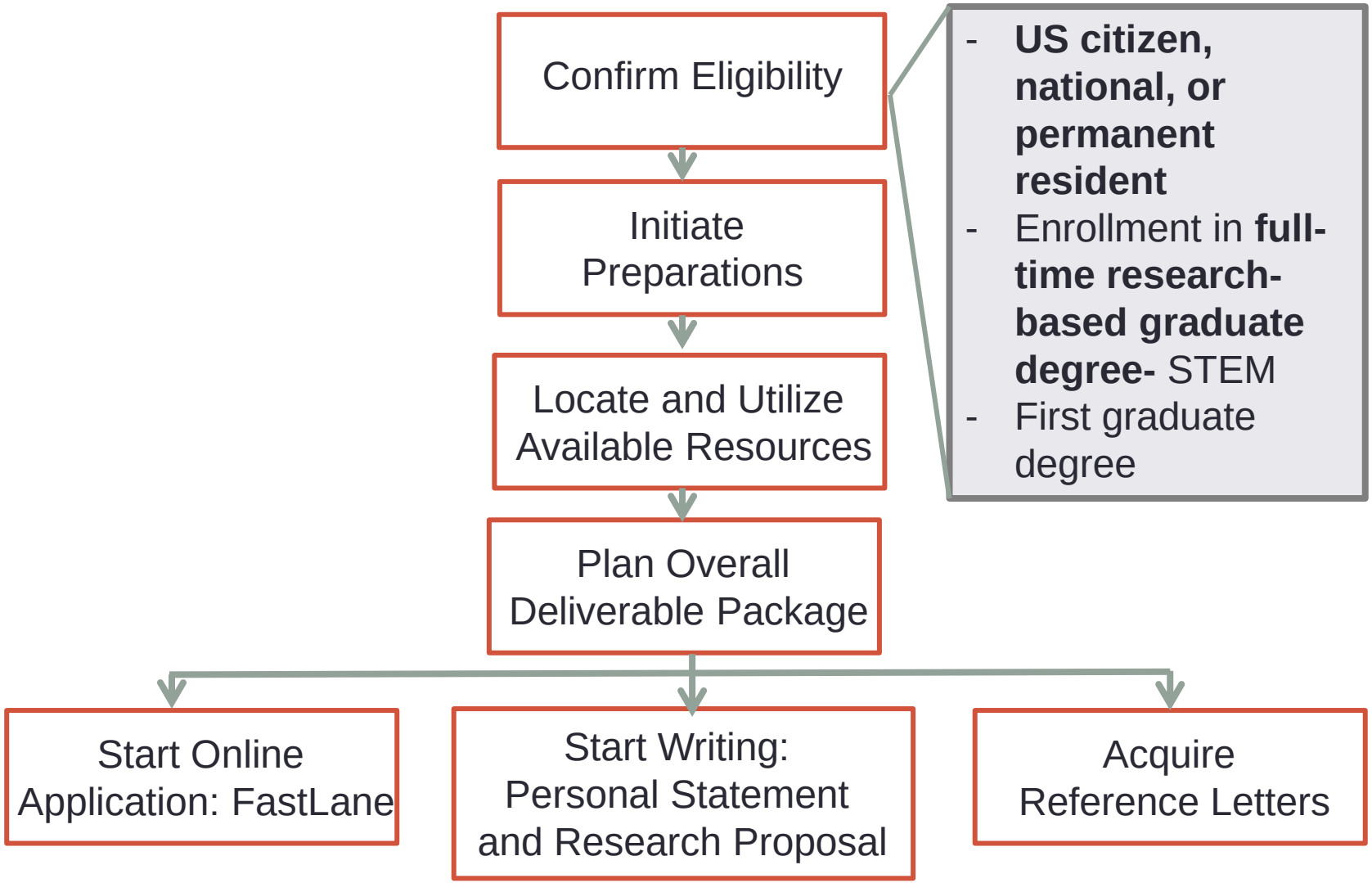
- **Award Distribution**
  - **Three years** of support for master's/doctoral degrees over **five years**

- **Award Funds**
  - Anticipated funding amount **$138,000**
  - Stipend of **$34,000** annually| **$2,833** monthly
  - Cost- of- education allowance **$46,000** total | **$12,000** annually
  - Available cyberinfrastructure resources: supercomputing time
  - International and professional development opportunities

NSF GRFP Myths

- It is **too hard** | it is impossible to get the award
- Students must have determined their graduate school **university** and **thesis project** before applying
- Students from **Ivy League schools** have a better chance at getting the fellowship
- Students must have **published research articles** prior to applying
- Personal and research statements must be written in **formal essay format**

NSF GRFP Application Process



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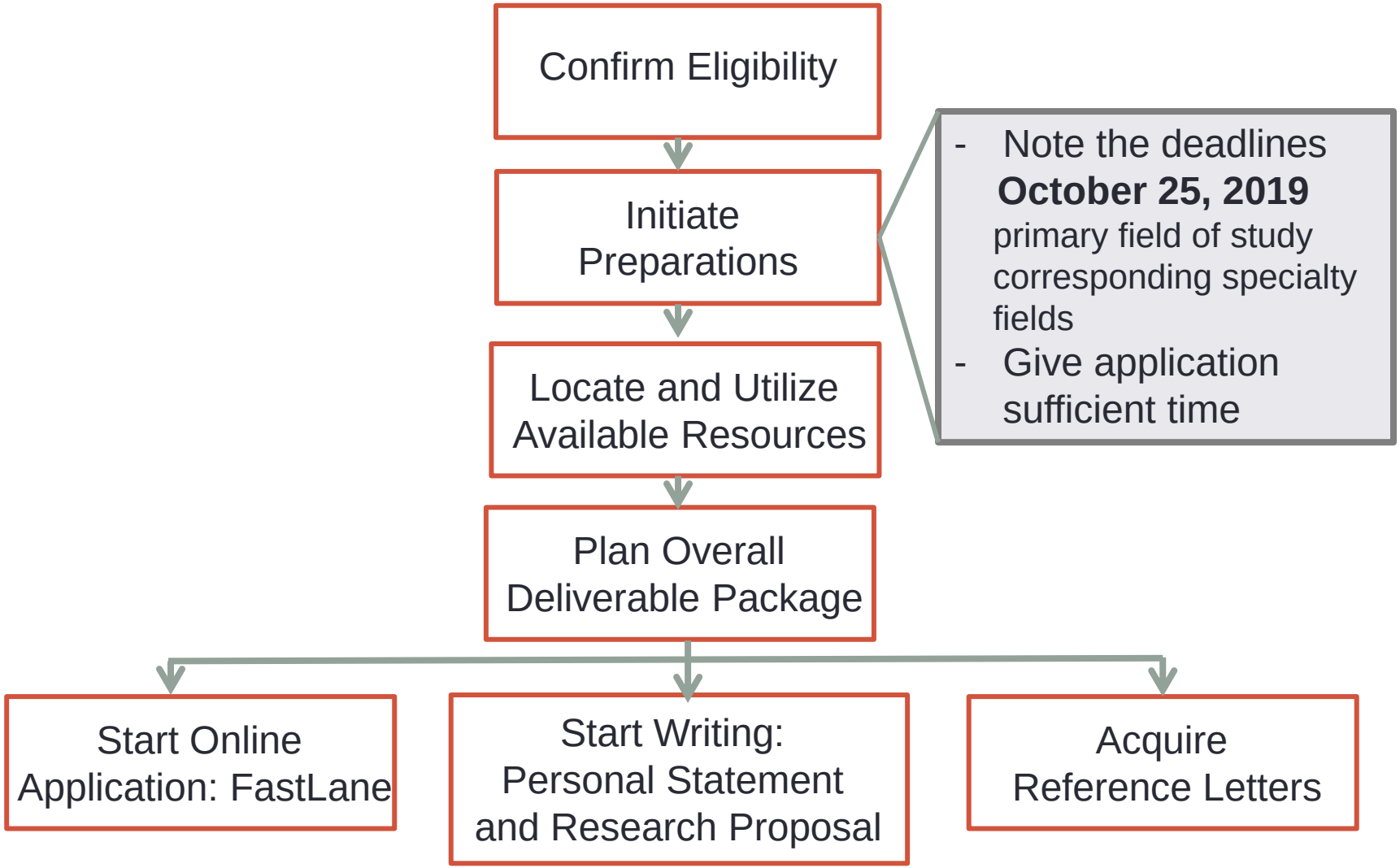
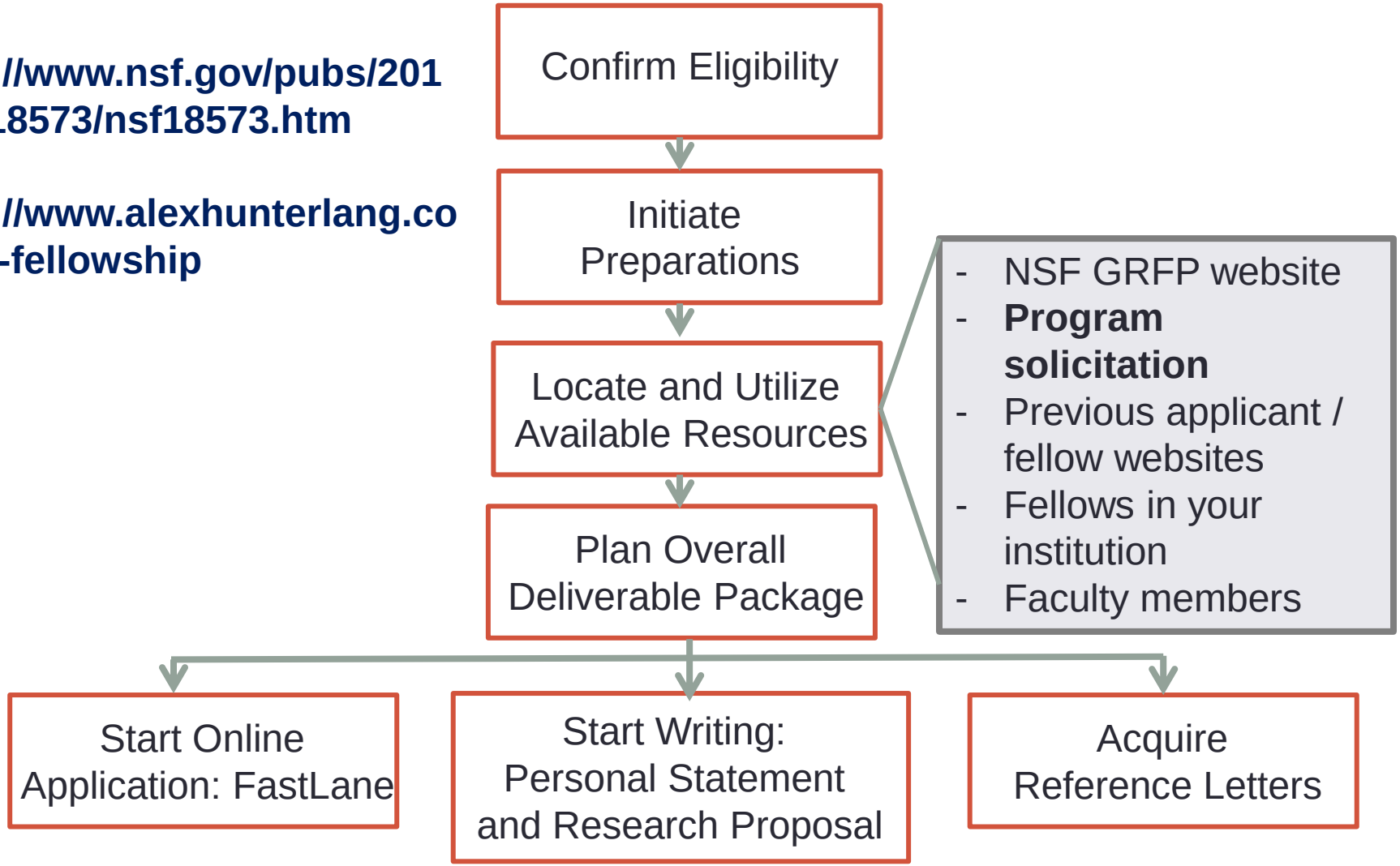


NSF GRFP Application Process

https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2018/nsf18573/nsf18573.htm

https://www.alexhunterlang.com/nsf-fellowship



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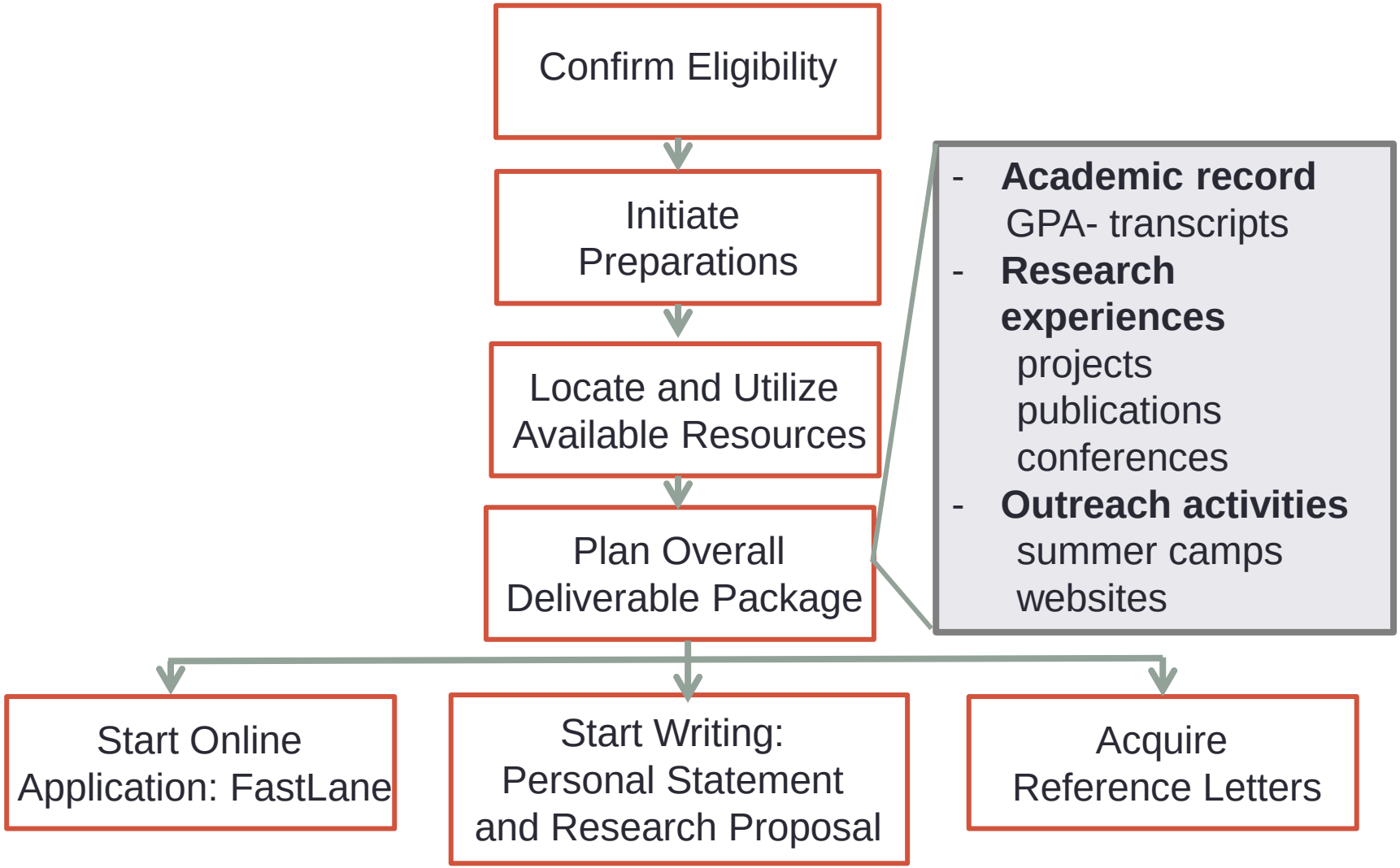

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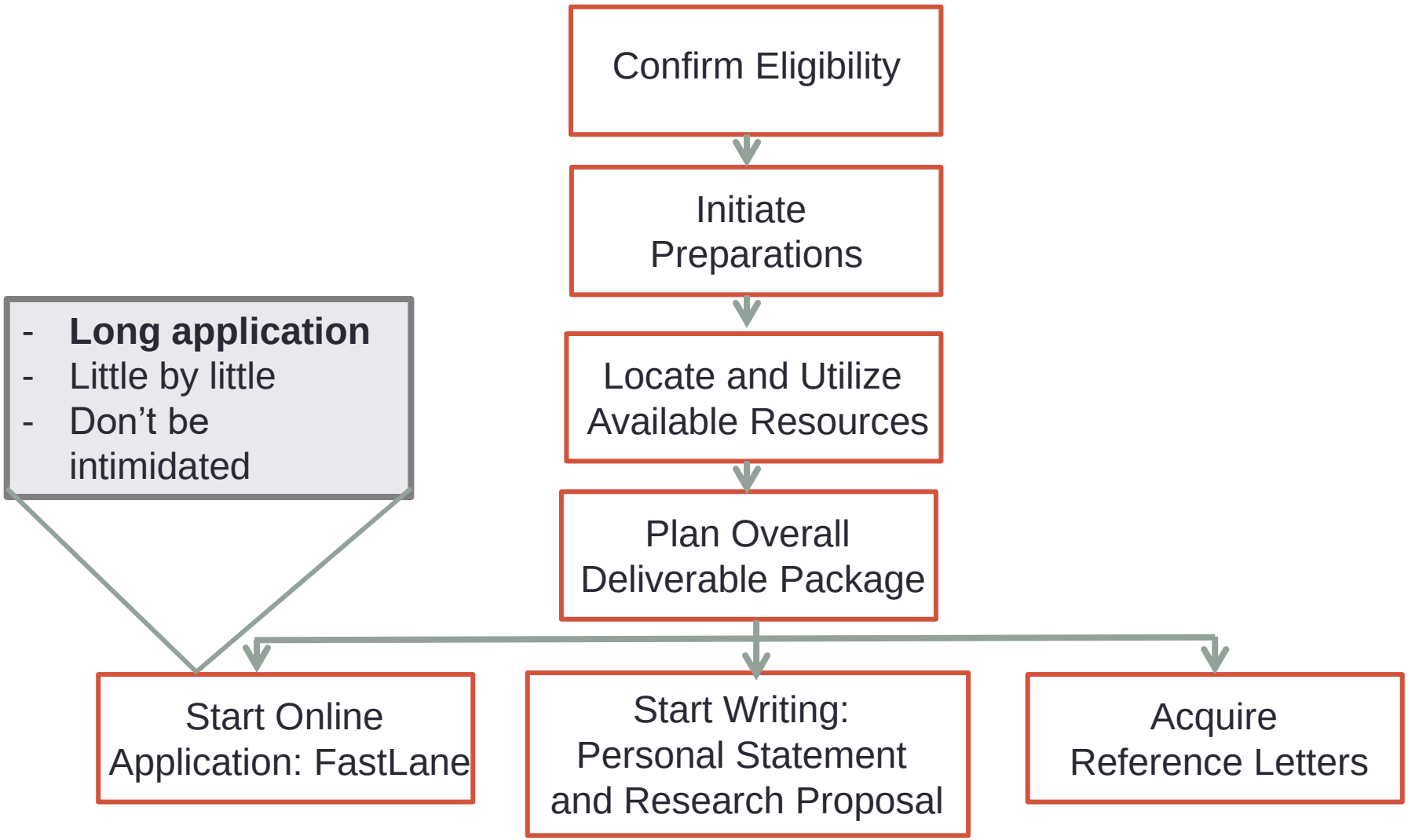
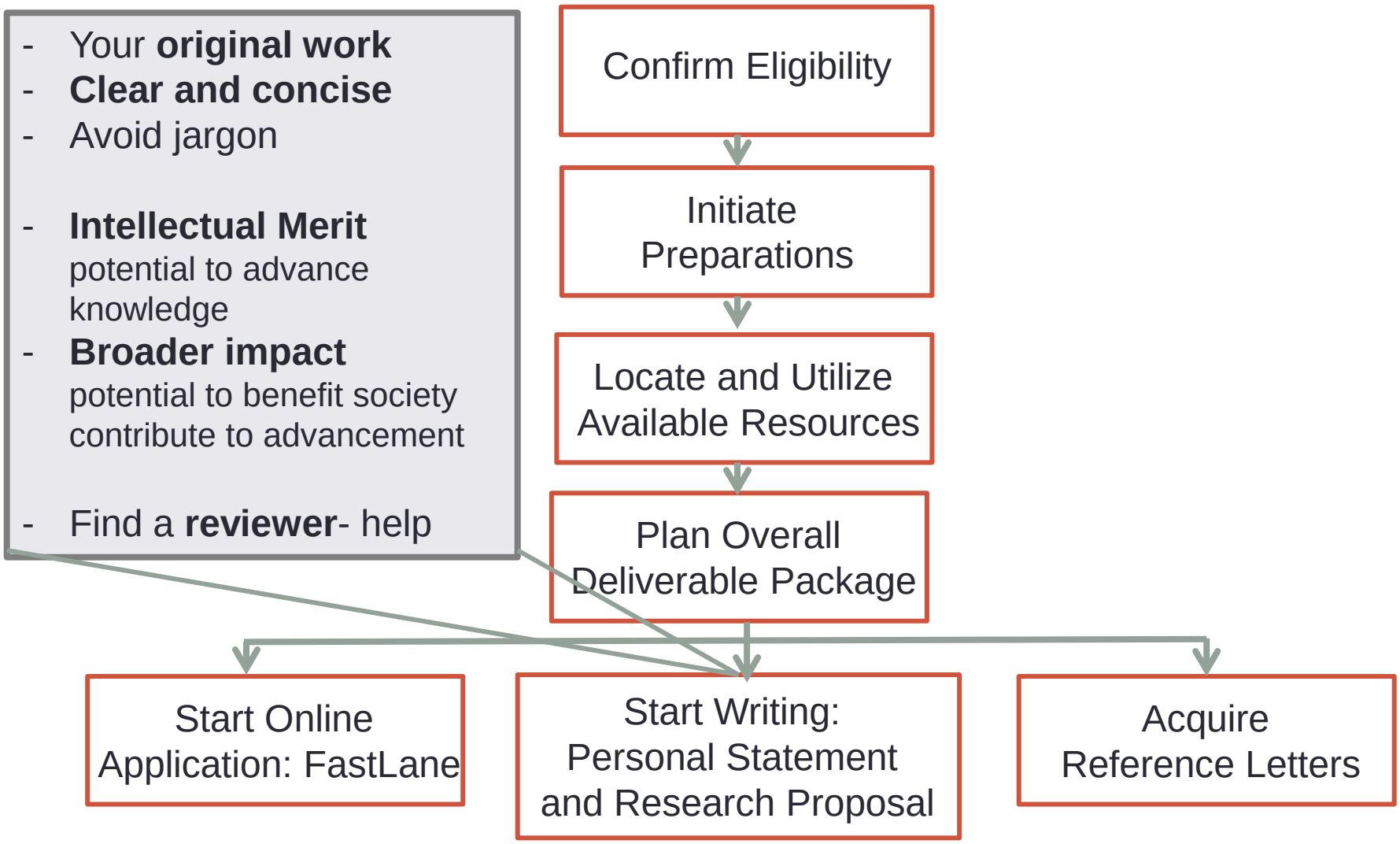


NSF GRFP Application Process

- Your **original work**
- **Clear and concise**
- Avoid jargon

- **Intellectual Merit**
  potential to advance knowledge
- **Broader impact**
  potential to benefit society
  contribute to advancement

- Find a **reviewer**- help



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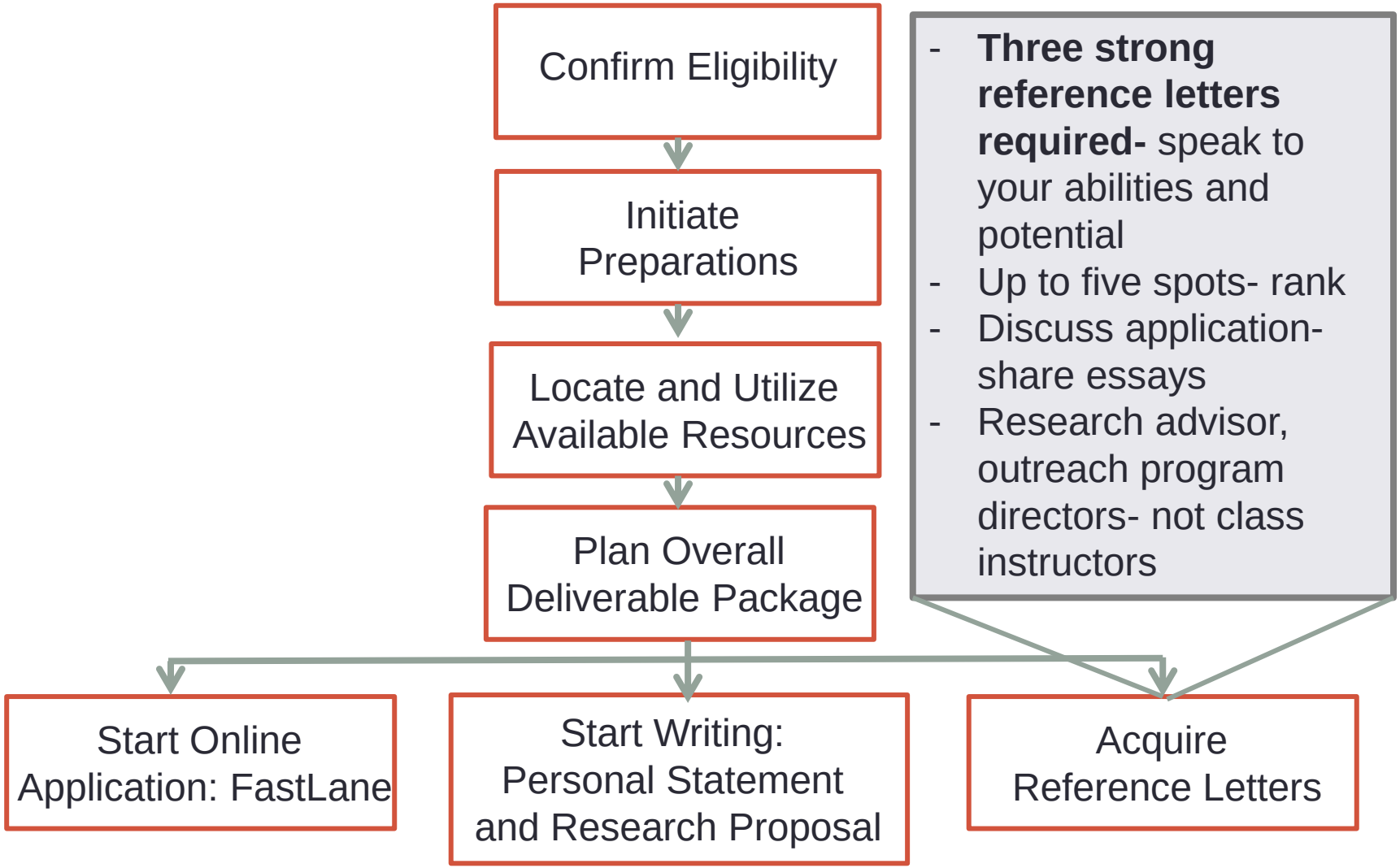

Intellectual Merit

- **How important is the proposed activity** to advancing knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields?
- **How well qualified** is the proposer to conduct the project?
- To what extent does the proposed activity suggest and **explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts**?
- How **well conceived and organized** is the proposed activity?
- Is there **sufficient access to resources**?

Broader Impact

- How well does the activity **advance discovery and understanding** while promoting teaching, training, and learning?
- How well does the proposed activity **broaden the participation of underrepresented groups**?
- To what extent will it enhance the infrastructure for research and education, such as facilities, instrumentation, networks, and partnerships?
- Will the results be **disseminated broadly** to enhance scientific and technological understanding?
- What may be the **benefits to society** of the proposed activity?

Personal, Relevant Background, Future Goals Statement

- Why are you **fascinated by your research area**?
- What examples of **leadership skills** and **unique characteristics** do you bring to your chosen field?
- What **personal and individual strengths** do you have that make you a qualified applicant?
- How will receiving the fellowship contribute to your **career goals**?
- What are your **applicable experiences**?
- How does the information in your Personal Statement address **Intellectual Merit** and **Broader Impact** criteria?

Graduate Research Plan Statement

- What **issues in the scientific community** are you most passionate about?
- Do you possess the **technical knowledge and skills** necessary for conducting this work- will you have sufficient mentoring and training to complete the study?
- Is this plan **feasible** for the allotted time and institutional resources?
- How will your research contribute to the **"big picture"** outside academia?
- How can you draft a plan using the guidelines presented in the essay instructions?
- How does your research address **Intellectual Merit** and **Boarder Impact** criteria?

Notes on the NSF GRFP

- Number of times one can apply
  - **Undergraduate students** can apply before enrolling in graduate school
  - **Graduate students** are limited to one application- beginning of first year or beginning of second year
  - **Different evaluation for different groups**
  - Fast track **BS and MS** can apply once
  - Withdrawing before the deadline does not count as one application
- Follow font, size, format required | do not miss any application components
  - Avoid **automatic disqualification**
- Student can choose any graduate school and any program
- Annual reporting requirement follows

QUESTIONS?

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