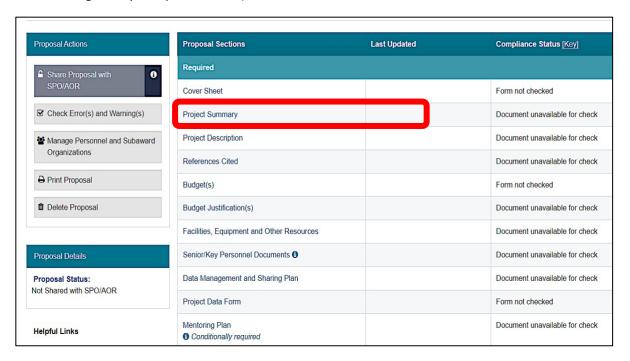# Preparing Forms for Your ATE Proposal: Project Summary

*This instruction sheet is derived directly from the Preparing Forms for Your NSF ATE Proposal webinar, presented on April 2, 2025. The full webinar is available for viewing at:* [https://tinyurl.com/MCFormsWebinar](https://tinyurl.com/MCFormsWebinar)
*A comprehensive version of the Quick Reference Guide can be accessed at:* [https://tinyurl.com/MCFormsGuide](https://tinyurl.com/MCFormsGuide)

## Project Summary

Develop your Project Summary as a separate, one-page document and upload it as a PDF file. (Remember that Research.gov only accepts PDF files.)



The Project Summary consists of three components: Overview, Intellectual Merit, and Broader Impacts, each with its own heading on a separate line. This is one of the most important pages in your proposal. The summary is a concise explanation of your project. It will be read several times during the review process: when assigning your proposal to a review panel, during panel review, in post-panel discussions comparing competitive proposals, and during the award process.

Overview: Clearly indicate the disciplinary focus of the project. Explain your goal(s) and objectives and what you will do to achieve them. Describe the proposed activities (i.e. curriculum or program development, professional development for educators, etc.), and the primary audience for those activities**.** If this is all someone reads about your project, they should be able to understand what you plan to do and how you will do it. **DO NOT** use this space for building a rationale for your project, describing your college or community environment, or stating the size of the grant you are requesting.

Broader Impacts:  Describe the potential of the proposed activities to benefit society. Be specific about your project's anticipated impact on your discipline, regional economic needs, and local industries. Questions you will address in your Broader Impacts may include:
- Has an assessment of relevant workforce needs been conducted? Does the project work with employers to assess their current and future needs for technicians?
- Will similar programs at other colleges benefit from your project? How will they be able to access relevant information and resources?

<u>Intellectual Merit</u>: Describe the potential of the proposed activities to advance knowledge. Questions you will address in your Intellectual Merit section may include:

- Does the project have the potential for improving student learning in technician education programs?
- Is the rationale for developing the objectives and activities clearly articulated and informed by the research literature?

Study the criteria for Broader Impacts and Intellectual Merit provided in the ATE Program Solicitation and the PAPPG to be sure that you understand what NSF means by these terms. Your project does not need to align with all mentioned NSF criteria, but you need to be clear in describing how it will specifically address some of them. Note that reviewers will look very carefully at these sections of your proposal as they develop their assessments of your work.