



# **USCERA**

University of South Carolina Electronic Research Administration

## User Guide

https://sam.research.sc.edu/uscera

For more information contact: Sponsored Awards Management (803)777-7093



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#### Introduction

The University of South Carolina Electronic Research Administration (USCERA) is the web-interface electronic research administration system used at USC which includes a number of components: Electronic Proposal Submission, Routing and USC Approval, Electronic Account Set-up and Routing, Searchable Database for Proposal and Award Data, and Human Subject Application Submission. USCERA is designed to save valuable faculty time in routing proposals for internal approval.

### Register

All University of South Carolina faculty, staff and students may register to use USCERA by:

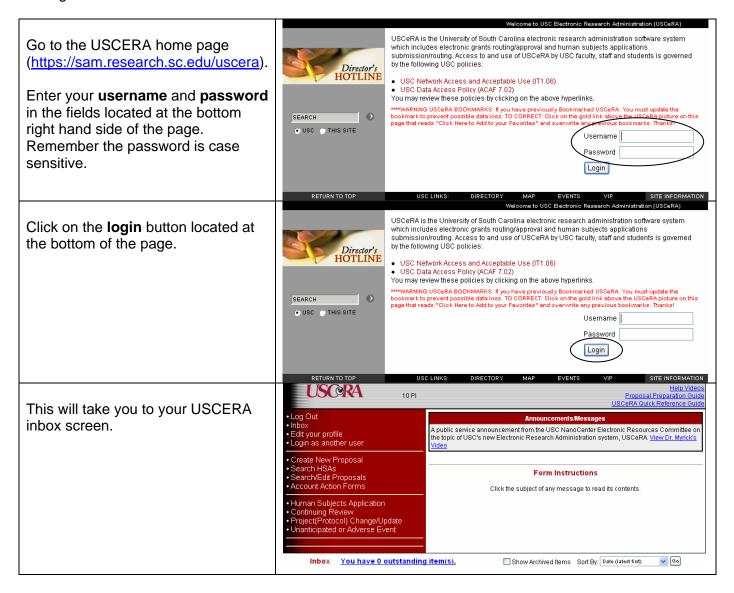


#### **Helpful Hints:**

- Password is case sensitive and must be at least five characters.
- It is important to enter your e-mail address. USCERA uses this address to send notices of activity in your account.
- Choose your Home Department by clicking on the change button. Please note that students, faculty and staff from senior and regional campuses should choose their respective campus as home department. (e.g. USC Aiken).

## Login

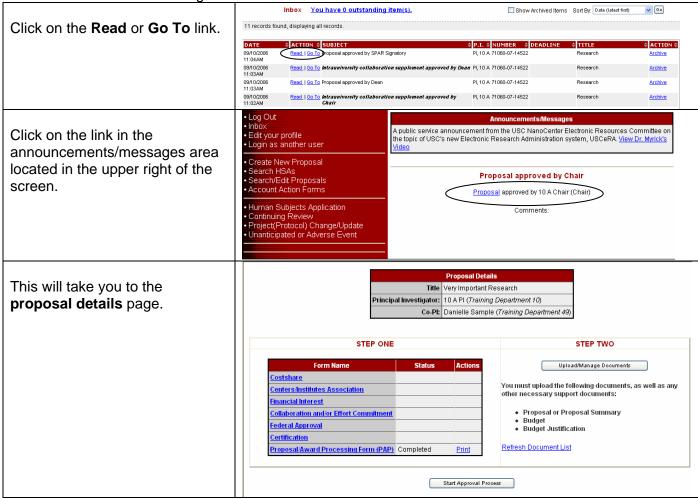
To login to USCERA:



#### Inbox

The USCERA inbox is similar to an e-mail system (e.g. groupwise, outlook). New activity will be displayed in bold/italics type.

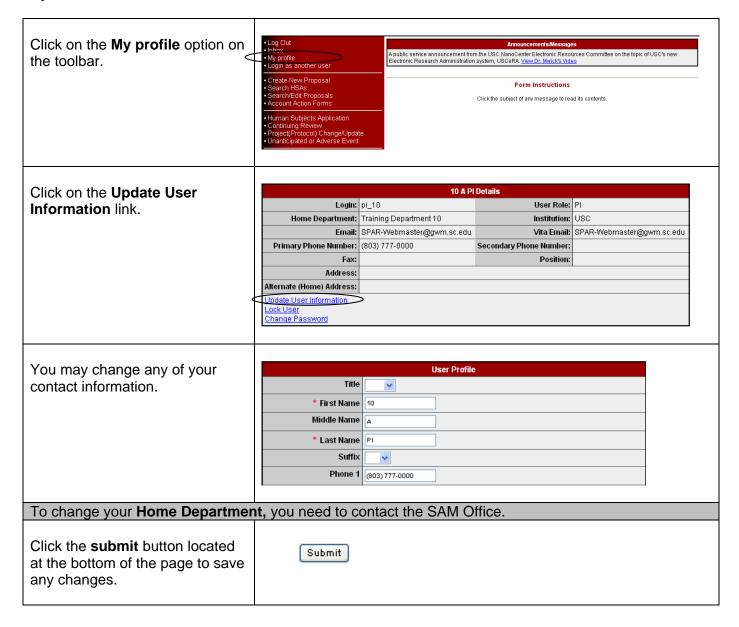
To view contents of a message:



## **My Profile**

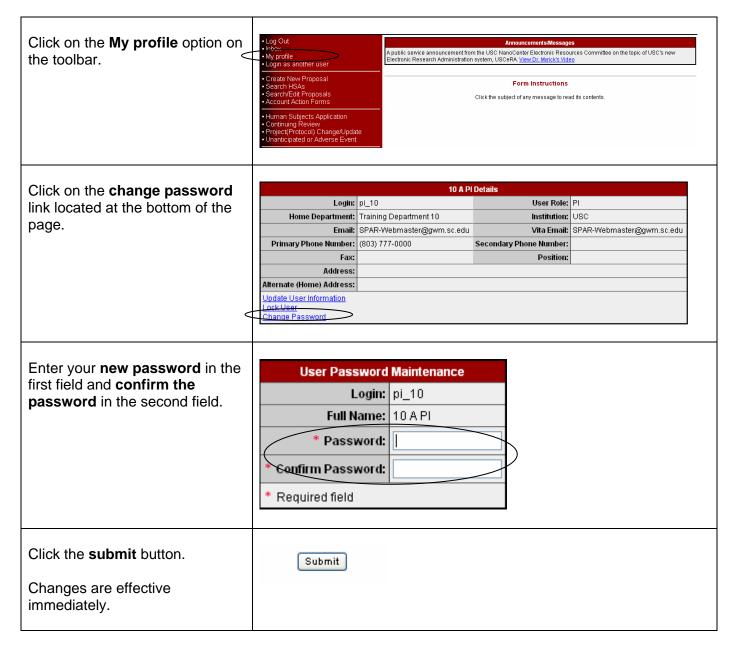
The profile section of USCERA contains the contact information you entered when you registered. The **my profile** option on the tool bar allows you to update your contact information, change your password and add e-mail addresses.

#### **Update Contact Information**



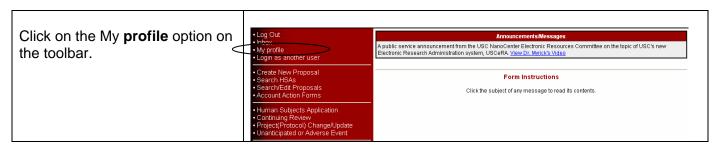
#### **Change Your Password**

To change your password:



#### **Add Multiple E-mail Addresses**

USCERA allows multiple e-mail address to be entered into your profile.



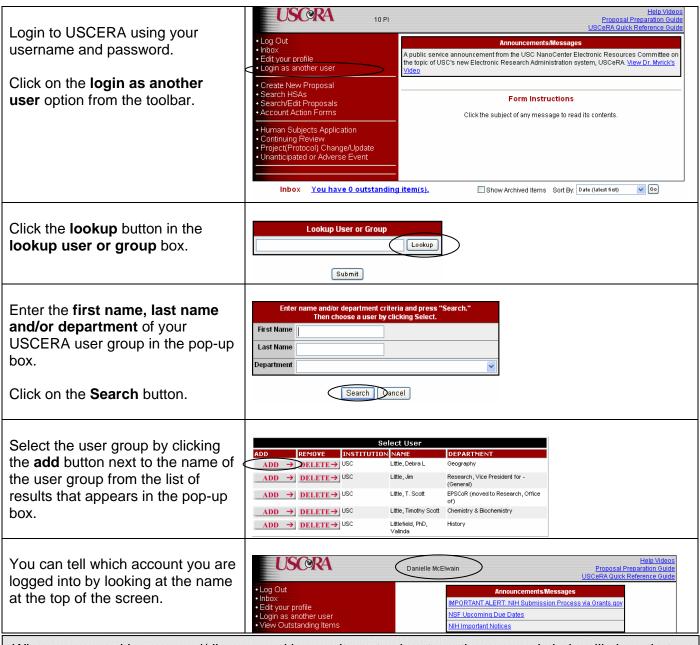
Click on the <b>Update User</b>	10 A PI Details				
Information link.	Login:	pi_10	User Role:	PI	
information link.	Home Department:	Training Department 10	Institution:	USC	
	Email:	SPAR-Webmaster@gwm.sc.edu	Vita Email:	SPAR-Webmaster@gwm.sc.edu	
	Primary Phone Number:	(803) 777-0000	Secondary Phone Number:		
	Fax:		Position:		
	Address:				
	Alternate (Home) Address:				
	Update User Information Lock User Change Password				
Enter your e-mail address in the <b>Email</b> field.					
Email field.	En	nail SPAR-Webmaster@gwm.so.			
•	En	nail SPAR-Webmaster@gwm.so. Separate multiple addre			
Email field.	Еп				

## Login as Another User

USCERA user groups have been established for two purposes:

- Allow Deans, Chairs and Directors to assign alternate approval authority in their absence
- Allow Departmental Assistants and Business Managers access to Departmental Faculty accounts. This access allows Departmental Assistants and Business Managers to view faculty proposals and assist with the completion of the USCERA forms.

These user groups are established at the request of the Dean/Chair/Director. To establish a user group, please e-mail the request to Debbie Kassianos at kassiano@gwm.sc.edu.

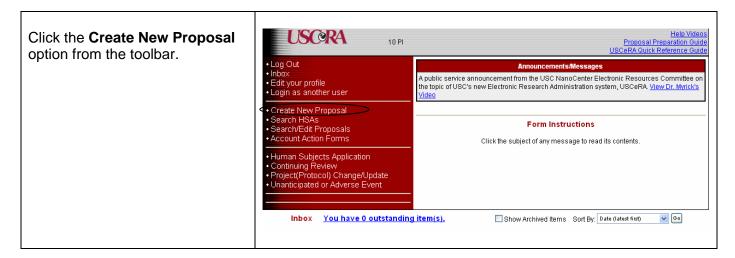


When a proposal is approved/disapproved by an alternate signatory, the approval chain will show that "Dr. X signed in lieu of Dr. Y."

Department Administrator and Business Managers can view proposals, edit forms before submission, and start proposal forms. They can not start the approval process for a proposal.

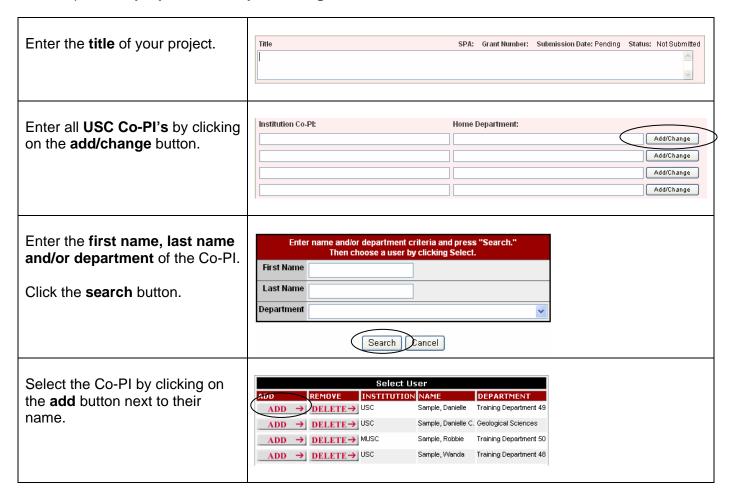
## **Create New Proposal**

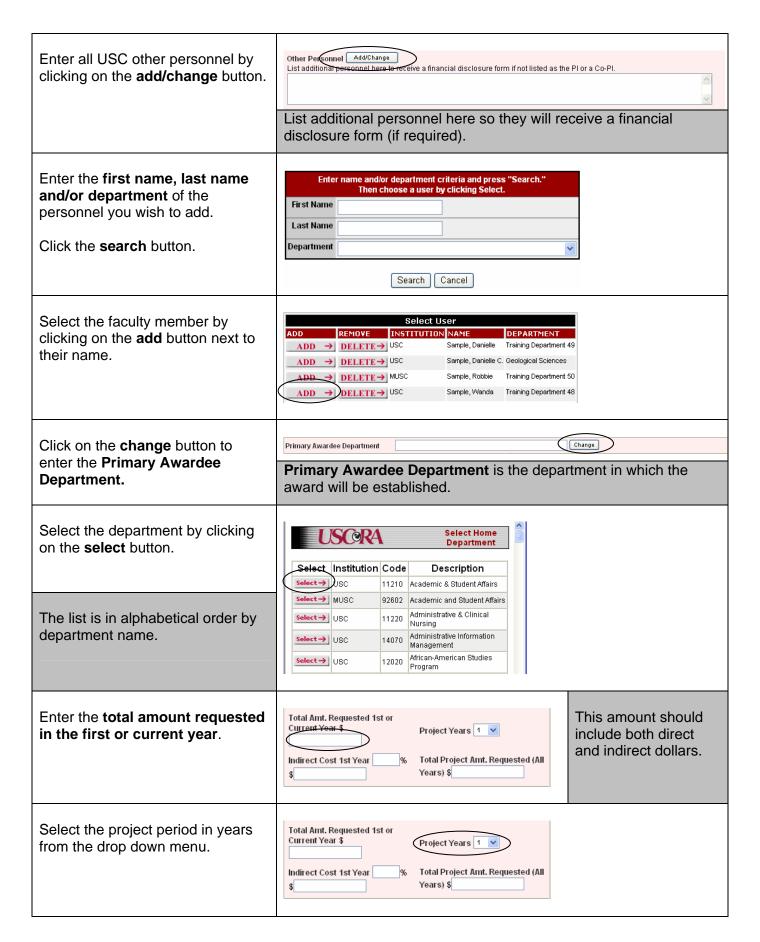
To enter a proposal into the USCERA system,



#### **Proposal/Award Processing Form**

To complete the **proposal/award processing form**:



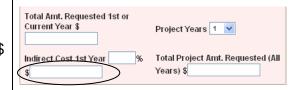


Enter the rate (percent) used to calculate the **indirect cost** in the field before the % sign.

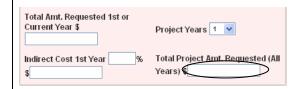


#### Current indirect costs rates can be found at http://sam.research.sc.edu/idc06-08.html

Enter the dollar amount listed in the budget for **indirect costs for the first year** in the field after the \$ sign.



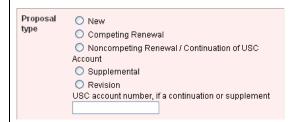
Enter the total project amount being requested from the sponsor for the project period.



Enter the **Start date** and **End date** of your proposal by either typing the date (MM/DD/YYYY) or by using the drop down calendar.



Select the proposal type from the list by clicking on the button beside the type.



- New proposal for support of a project that has not yet been funded.
- Competing Renewal proposal for an additional term of support based on a funded previous project; must compete for available funds. Please list current USC account number is the space provided.
- Noncompeting Renewal proposal to fund next budget increment of a current award; does not compete for available funds. Please list current USC account number in the space provided.
- Supplemental proposal requesting additional funds for a current award to cover increased costs or to expand the scope of work. Please list current USC account number in the space provided.
- Revision proposal that has been changed based on reviewer comments and is being resubmitted to the same agency

Enter the date the proposal is due Postmark - proposal must be Agency Deadline postmarked on or before the due date to the sponsor by typing the date Date (MM/DD/YYYY) or by using the **Receipt** – proposal must be received on or before the due date drop down calendar. O Postmark No Specific Deadline – proposal may O Receipt be submitted at anytime throughout the Specify if the deadline date entered No Specific is a postmark, receipt or No Deadline Specific Deadline by clicking on the button beside the type. Choose the source of funding from Project the drop down list. Source Federal – United States government entities. **State** – State government agency. Local – Local government agency. Example: City of Columbia. **Private, Non-profit** – Non-profit foundation, includes USC Research Foundation. **Commercial for Profit** – Business, corporation or industry. Other – Hospitals **Agency** –Z funds only Choose the purpose of the proposal Project from the drop down list. Purpose **Research** – the focus of the proposal is a systematic investigation designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge. **Training** – the focus of the proposal is conducting training activities, whether they are offered for credits toward a degree or certificate or on a non credit basis, and whether they are offered through regular academic departments or separate divisions. **Equipment** – the sole purpose of your proposal is to purchase equipment required to conduct research. **Service** – the focus of your proposal is to provide a service. **GA Work Experience** –the purpose is to establish a graduate student work experience contract. Donated Software/Equipment –the purpose of the proposal is to receive donated software/equipment from a commercial for profit agency. Type in the name of the agency to Sponsoring Agency which you are submitting your

proposal.

Type in the address for the agency if you are submitting to a non-

federal agency.



Select the type of program you are applying to from the drop down list.

Program	v
Туре	

- Artistic Pursuit funding for the presentation of artistic work for example a performance, exhibit, film or video production.
- CAREER/Faculty Development program offered by National Science Foundation or other sponsor for the support of early career-development activities of those teacher-scholars who most effectively integrate research and education.
- CESU proposals submitted in conjunction with the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit Network.
- **COEE** proposals submitted to the Centers of Economic Excellence program.
- EPSCoR proposal submitted to Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research program.
- **Equipment or Materials** funding targeted toward the purchase or use of equipment, materials, or special facilities required to conduct research.
- Facility or Construction funding to construct, remodel or operate a facility.
- **Fellowship/Undergraduate Research** funding for specialized training that advances the PI's knowledge of the area, not the area itself.
- **FIPSE** Proposal submitted to the Department of Education's Fund for Improving Postsecondary Education program.
- Meeting or Conference funding to either attend or organize a meeting, conference or seminar.
- N/A Not Applicable proposal is not related to one of the listed program types.
- Publishing or Editorial subvention for publication costs of journals, manuscripts, texts, documents, and translations of works.
- SBIR proposal submitted to the Small Business Innovative Research program.
- STTR proposal submitted to the Small Business Technology Transfer program.
- TRIO program offered by Department of Education.

Enter the name of the program to which you are applying in the Solicitation Sponsor Guidelines field. Sponsor Guidelines Web Link Enter the web address of the In response to REA/REQ/REP? auidelines or fundina announcement, if available electronically, in the web link field. **RFA:** Request for Application Select **yes** or **no** from the drop RFQ: Request for Quote down menu indicating if the **RFP:** Request for Proposal proposal is in response to a RFA/RFQ/RFP. Check the box next to the correct institution if you are collaborating This is a collaboration with : 🔲 Clemson 🔲 MUSC 🔲 Other Institution Congressional Earmark? with Clemson, MUSC, or a Other Internal Requests: VP For Research Institution. If you check other institution, type in the name of the institution.

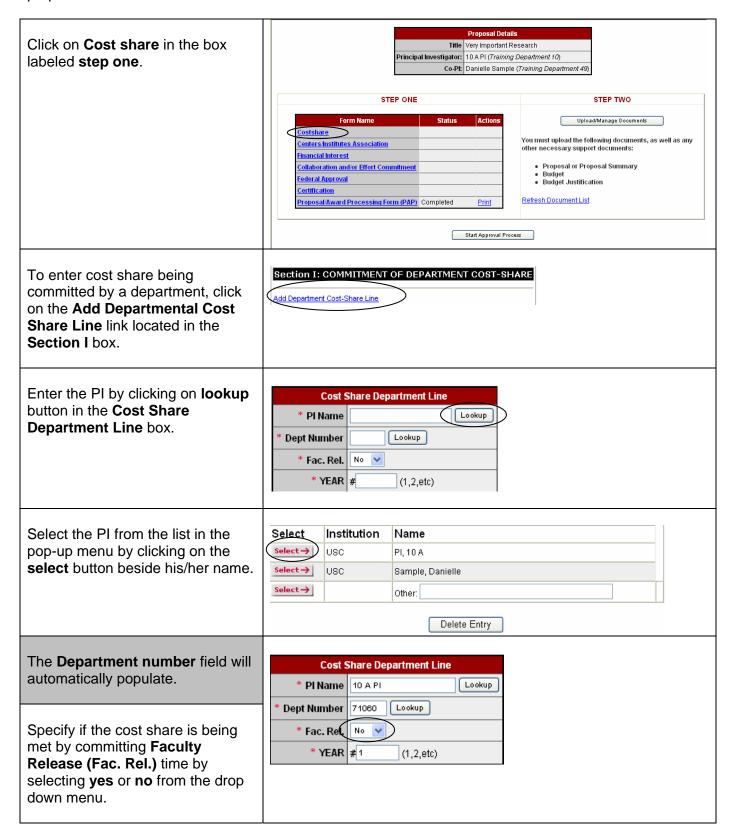
Check the box next to the question	This is a collaboration with: Clemson MUSC Other Institution
if the proposal is being submitted in '	Congressional Earmark?
response to a federal	
congressional earmark.	
Check the box if this proposal is for	This is a collaboration with : Clemson MUSC Other Institution
an internal request.	Congressional Farmark?  Internal Requests: VP For Research
Soloat the internal funding program	
Select the internal funding program from the drop down menu.	
nom the drop down mend.	
	9 questions about your proposal. If you answer "yes" to some of
these questions, you will be required	to complete corresponding supplemental forms.
Answer yes, if any cost share,	
match, inkind contributions are	1. Cost share in proposal?
included in your proposal.	n cost share in proposur.
Anguar yas if you are using	
Answer yes, if you are using resources from any <b>USC intra-</b>	
university center/institute.	2. Is project part of a USC intra-university Center/Institute?
Answer yes, if participating in this	3. Faculty release time?
project would require you to be released from your teaching load.	
Tologod from your todorning load.	
Answer yes, if this project will	
require the acquisition or construction of additional space or	4. Additional space or facilities? If yes, contact Facilities Planning.
facilities.	
Anguar yas if you are requesting	
Answer yes, if you are requesting extra compensation for any	5. Inst. faculty/employees extra compensation, consulting? (Does not apply to summer salary)
personnel in this project.	3. Inst. faculty/employees extra compensation, constituing: (boes not apply to summer satisfy)
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
	ensation is defined as compensation received above your normal
salary during the academic year. Sui	mmer salary does not apply under this definition.
Answer yes, if the sponsor	
guidelines include any restrictions	6. Restrictions on publications or involvement of proprietary information?
on publications or if the proposal	
includes any proprietary	
information.	
Answer yes, if the principal	7. Does PI hold Joint Appointment? If yes, answer yes to question 8.
investigator holds a <b>joint</b>	

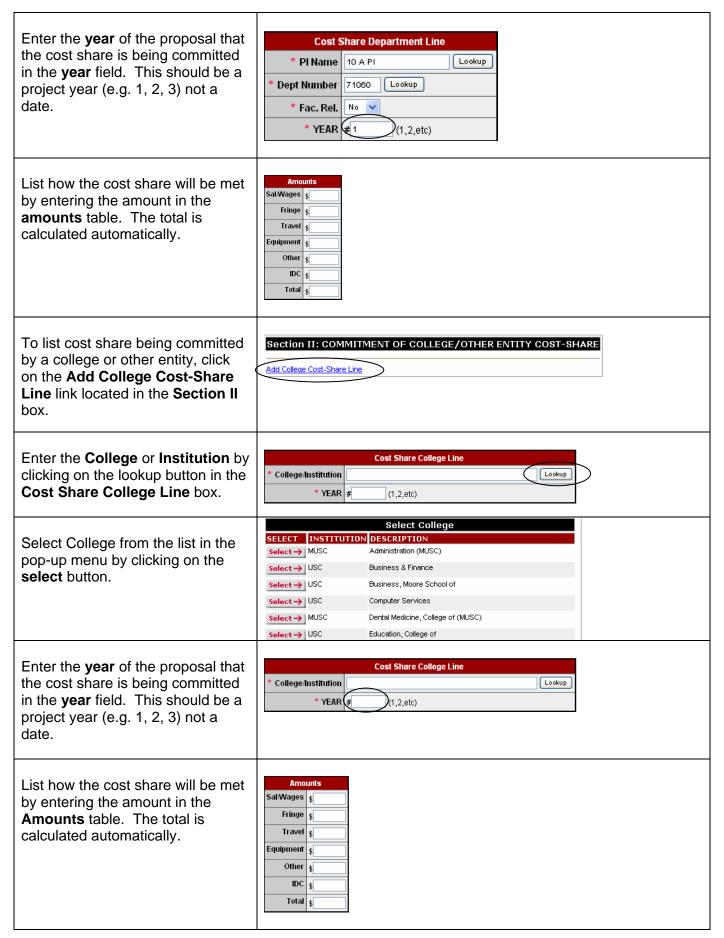
Answer yes, if faculty or staff from more than one department are included in the proposal.	8. Does this proposal involve faculty/staff from more than one department/unit?
Answer yes, if you included a subcontract, consultant or equipment in your proposal budget.	Subcontract – outside party will perform that will perform portion of work     Consultant – individual providing technical assistance     Equipment – one unit costing over \$5,000 with a useful life greater than one year
Answer yes, if your spouse/ dependent children, or other individuals included on this proposal have any financial interest related to the work to be conducted under this sponsored project.	10. Do you, your spouse/dependent children, or other individuals included on this proposal have any financial interest (e.g. ownership, equity, consulting, or management position) related to the work to be conducted under this sponsored project?
Answer yes, if the proposal is being submitted to the National Science Foundation or any Public Health Services agency.	11. Is the sponsor for this project NSF or PHS (CDC,NIH,HRSA,SAMHS) ?
Answer yes, if your proposal involves <b>human subjects</b> .  If you have submitted an IRB application, enter the HSA number by clicking on the <b>lookup</b> button.	12. Human subjects? If yes, the proposal must be reviewed by the Institutional Review Board.  If you have already received approval, enter HSA # Lookup
Answer yes, if you proposal involves vertebrate animals.  If you have received animal use approval, enter the animal use approval number and the approval date.	13. Vertebrate lab animals? If yes, contact Animal Resources or give Animal Use Approval Number:  Approval Date:
Answer yes, if you proposal involves the use of recombinant DNA, select agents, other pathogens or biohazards.  If you have received Institutional Biosafety Committee approval, enter the IBC approval number and the approval date.	14a. Recombinant DNA If yes, the project must be reviewed by the Institutional Committee (IBC). If approved, enter IBC approval # and approval date.  14b. Select Agents If yes, the project must be reviewed by the IBC. If approved, enter IBC approval # and approval date.  14c. Other pathogens or biohazards If yes, please list

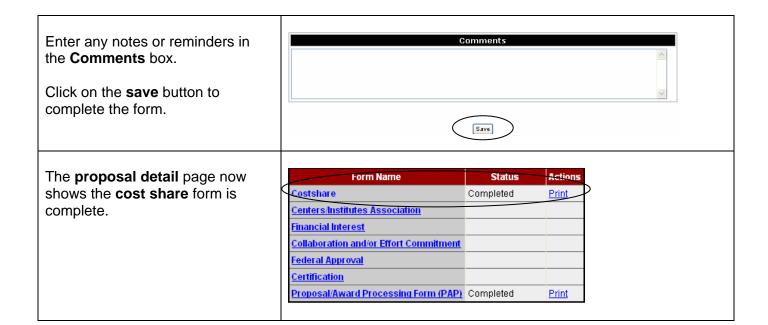
Answer yes, if you proposal involves the use of radioactive materials/substances, x-ray equipment, lasers, strong UV emitting devises, hazardous or regulated chemicals.	14d. Radioactive materials/substances or x-ray equipment, lasers, or strong UV emitting devices  14e. Hazardous or regulated chemicals
Answer yes, if you project involves research in any of the areas listed.  Select all of the areas that apply to the proposal, by clicking on the box next to the topic.	15. Does project involve research in:  BioMedical Sciences Nanotechnology Environmental Sciences Clinical Trials Clinical Drug Trials Future Fuels (fuel cells & hydrogen production storage) Photo / Opto (lasers) Behavioral Sciences Homeland Security Health Disparities Marine and Coastal Sciences
Answer yes, if any part of the project will take place outside of the USA or if you will be exporting materials/information to a foreign country.	16. Part of project takes place outside the USA or involves shipment of materials or equipment to a foreign country.:
Answer yes, if the project is sponsored by an agency from outside the USA or if any collaborators, consultants or suppliers are from outside the USA.	17. Project involves entity (sponsor, collaborators, consultants, suppliers, etc.) outside USA.:
Answer yes, if any faculty, staff or students working on the project are foreign nationals.	18. Project involves a foreign national (including faculty, staff or students).:
Answer yes, if the project will be conducted at MUSC VA facilities.	19. Is Project being conducted at MUSC VA Facilities?:
Enter any <b>remarks</b> or special instructions that need to be noted about the proposal.	Remarks (include reference information for electronic proposals here)
Click the <b>save</b> button located at the bottom of the page.	Save

#### **Cost share Form**

This form will only appear if you answered yes to the question that asked "Is there cost share in the proposal".

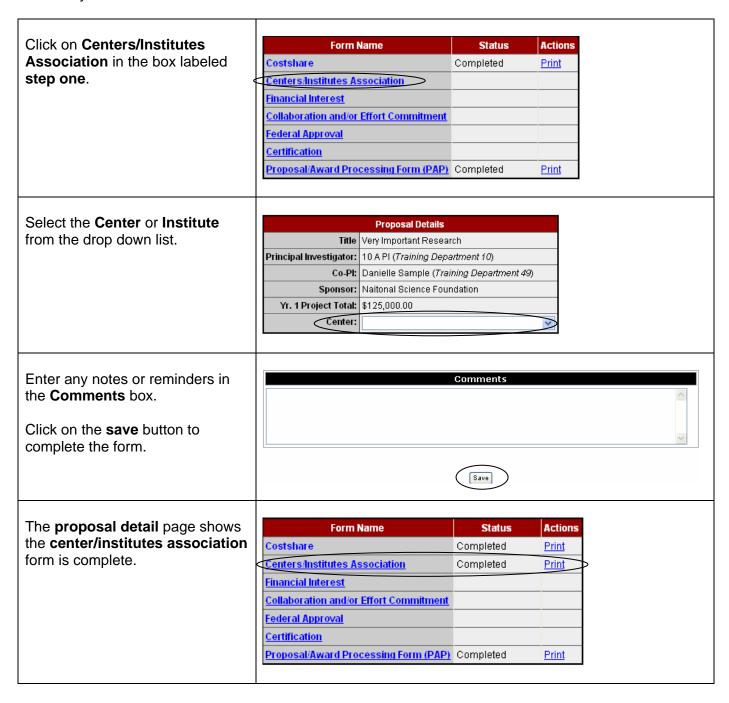






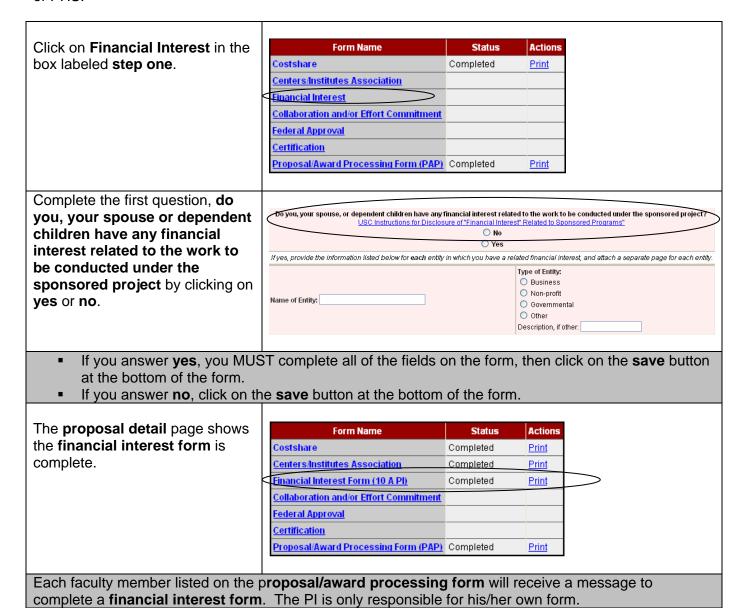
#### **Centers/Institutes Association**

This form will only appear if you answered yes to the question that asked "Is project part of USC intrauniversity Center/Institute".



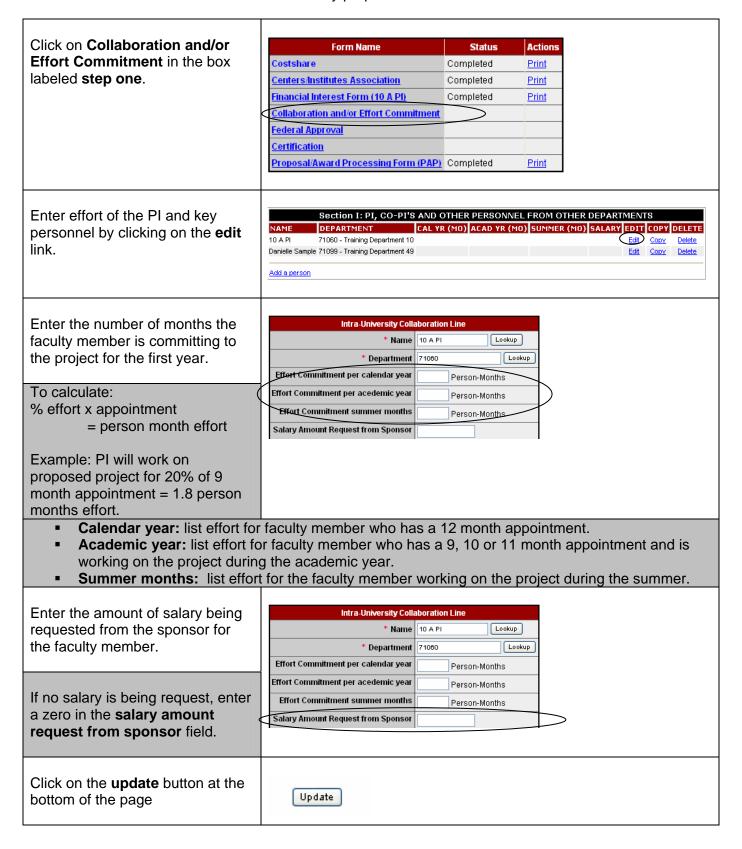
#### **Financial Interest Form**

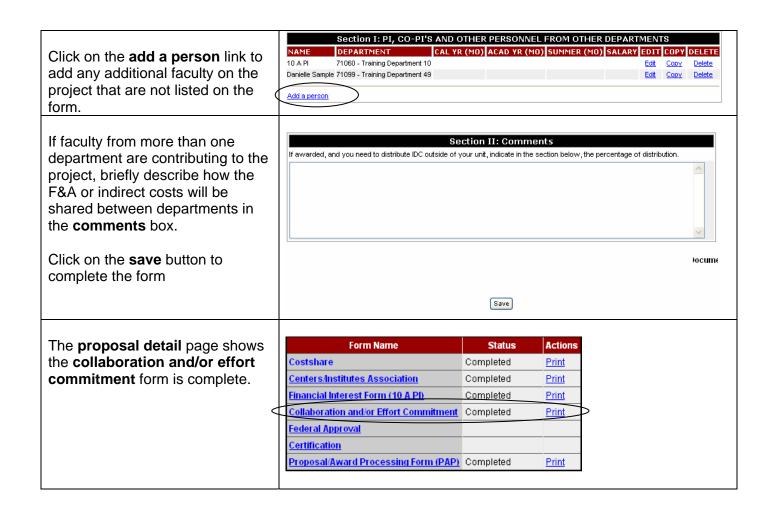
This form will only appear if you answered yes to either of the following questions "Do you, your spouse/dependent children, or other individuals included on this proposal have any financial interest related to the work to be conducted under this sponsored project" or "Is the sponsor for this project NSF or PHS."



#### Collaboration and/or Effort Commitment Form

Collaboration and/or Effort is collected for every proposal.





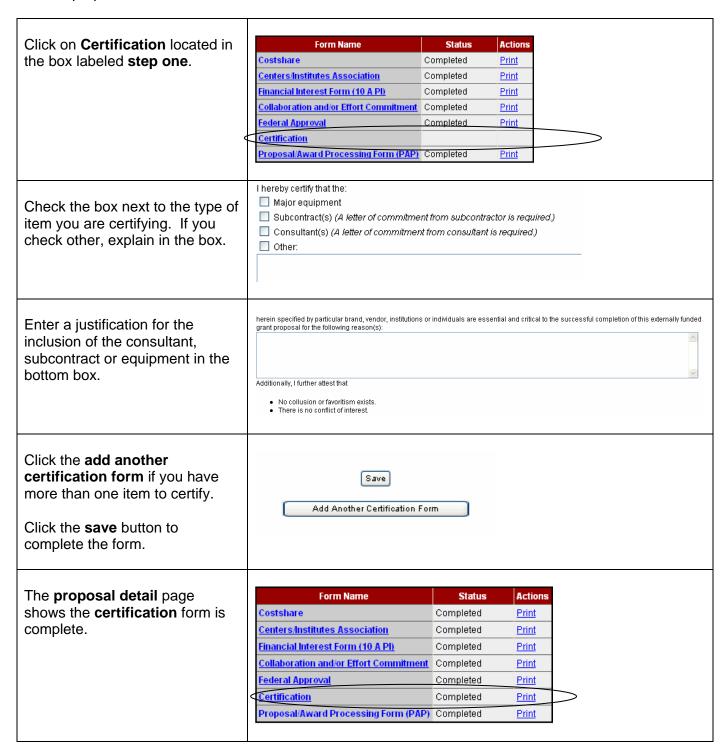
## **Federal Approval Form**

This form is required for all federal proposals.

Click on <b>Federal Approval</b>	Form Name	Status	Actions	
located in the box labeled <b>step</b>	Costshare	Completed	<u>Print</u>	
one.	Centers/Institutes Association	Completed	<u>Print</u>	
	Financial Interest Form (10 A PI)	Completed	<u>Print</u>	
	Collaboration and/or Effort Commitment	Completed	<u>Print</u>	
	Federal Approval			
	Certification			
	Proposal/Award Processing Form (PAP)	Completed	<u>Print</u>	
		I agree to the above	e statements	
Click on the <b>save</b> button to complete the form.	Save			
complete the form.		Status	Actions	
complete the form.  The <b>proposal detail</b> page shows	Form Name	Status Completed	Actions Print	
The proposal detail page shows the federal approval form is	Form Name Costshare	Completed	<u>Print</u>	
The proposal detail page shows the federal approval form is	Form Name  Costshare  Centers Institutes Association	Completed Completed	Print Print	
	Form Name  Costshare  Centers Institutes Association	Completed Completed Completed	<u>Print</u>	
The proposal detail page shows the federal approval form is	Form Name  Costshare  Centers:Institutes Association Financial Interest Form (10 A PI) Collaboration and/or Effort Commitment	Completed Completed Completed	Print Print Print	
The proposal detail page shows the federal approval form is	Form Name  Costshare  Centers:Institutes Association  Financial Interest Form (10 A PI)  Collaboration and/or Effort Commitment	Completed Completed Completed Completed	Print Print Print Print	

#### **Certification Form**

This form will only appear if you answered yes to the question that asked "Sole source considerations: subcontracts, outside consultants, equipment". Any subcontracts, outside consultants, or equipment purchased by the award will be exempt from the procurement bid process if this form is completed at the time of proposal submission.



#### **Internal Commitment Form**

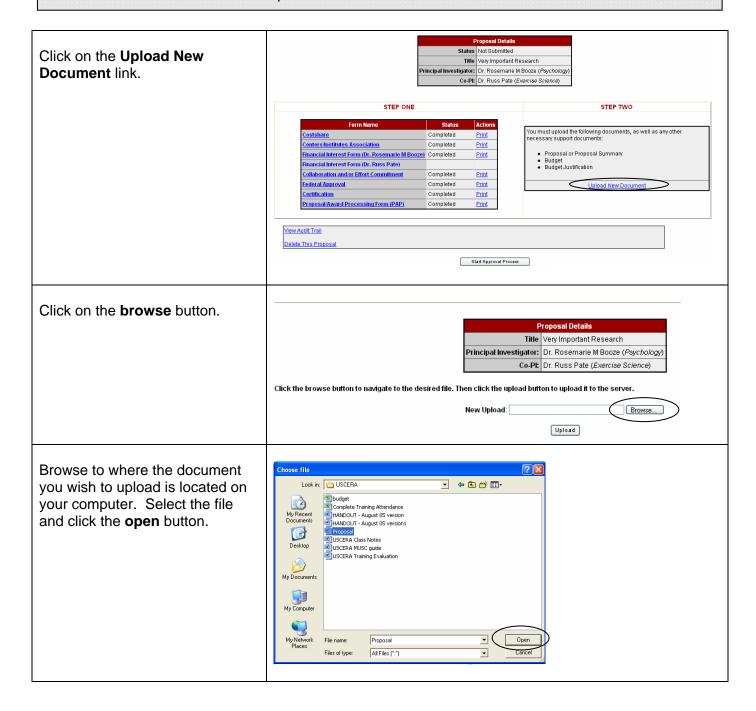
This form will only appear if check the box next to **Internal Requests** on the Proposal/Award Processing Form. This box should be checked when you are applying to any of the Research Funding Programs (Research Opportunity Program, Research Equipment Program, Small Grant Program, Centenary Plan and Magellan Scholar Program).

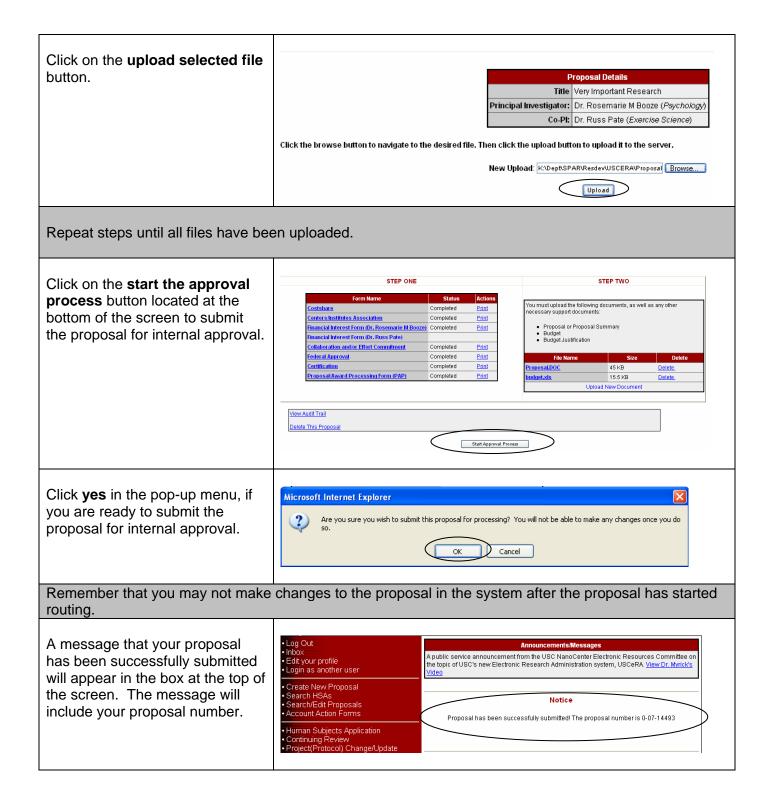
Click on <b>Internal Commit</b> located in the box labeled <b>step one</b> .	Form Name  Costshare  Centers/Institutes Association  Financial Interest  Collaboration and/or Effort Con  Certification		Status	Actions	
	Internal Commit Proposal/Award Processing F	orm (PAP)	Completed	Print	
Enter the amount being requested from the Research Funding Program for each year.  The total will be calculated automatically.		Commitment Inf	Formation  Commite  No Amount Cor  No Amount Cor  No Amount Cor  No Amount Cor	nmitted nmitted nmitted	
Do NOT list cost share commitments on this form.	Year 4 Amount \$ Year 5 Amount \$ Total Amount \$		No Amount Cor No Amount Cor		
Enter any notes or reminders in the <b>PI Comments</b> box.	PI Comments				
Click on the <b>save</b> button to complete the form.	Save				
The <b>proposal detail</b> page shows the <b>certification</b> form is complete.	Form Name  Costshare Centers/Institutes Association Financial Interest Form (Miss Wa Collaboration and/or Effort Comm Certification Internal Commit Proposal/Award Processing Form	<u>itment</u>	Completed Completed Completed Completed Completed Completed Completed Completed	Actions Print	

#### **Uploading Documents**

Your proposal, budget, budget justification and other necessary support documents are uploaded under **Step Two** on the **proposal detail** page.

- All file types are accepted.
- No limit on number of files uploaded.





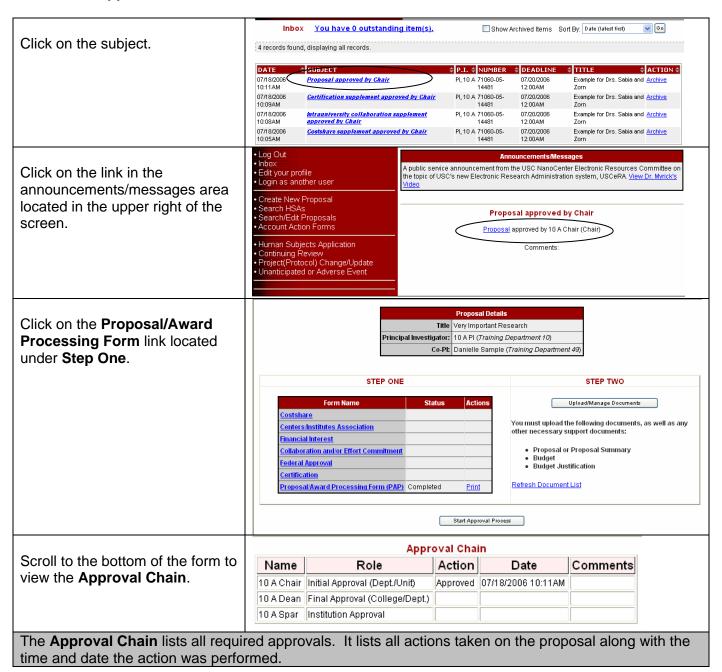
### **Routing Process**

Your proposal will first be sent to your chair for approval and will then continue through the routing process until it has been approved by all necessary university officials (chair, dean, SAM). If one of the officials disapproves your proposal it will be returned to your USCERA inbox, so you may revise and resubmit it. You will receive an e-mail each time an official approves or disapproves your proposal.

#### **Check Status of Recently Submitted Proposals**

You may track the progress of your proposal by looking at the **approval chain** located at the bottom of each form.

#### To view the approval chain:



## **Search Proposals**

To locate a pending or submitted proposal:

