



Curriculum and Methods of Instruction

The program described in this pamphlet is representative of the typical program. Program flexibility permits refinements based on the annual needs of participants.

Grant Proposal Development Sessions

During these core activities and through extensive mentoring by the project group, attendees will dissect every aspect of their proposals before the end of the program. These sessions allow attendees to be actively involved, applying learning to their own proposals based on detailed critiques from experienced, well-funded scientists and peers.

Mini-Lectures and Discussions

Experts in the field will lead group discussions as needed on specific topics related to the principles and conduct of high-quality research grant proposals.

One-on-One Sessions

Mentors will be available to provide for individual advice and guidance on proposal development, mentoring, funding sources, data analysis, career development, and grant writing.

Mentors

Participants are given the opportunity to work hand-in-hand with mentors who are experienced, funded researchers and educators within academia and industry. Highly skilled clinical, basic science, and biostatistician researchers will be on-site to teach and guide investigator participants.

About the FIT Program

FIT is an intensive 5-day hands-on program for a limited number of experienced pharmacist investigators who are preparing to submit/re-submit an application for extramural funding as principal investigators. Through this mentored program, pharmacist investigators take steps to maximize the competitiveness of their investigator-initiated research grant or career development award application for submission to the NIH or other major funding source.

FIT Program Success

Attendees have successfully received funding from the NIH and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality as well as local and national foundations and industries. This program works!

Who Should Apply

Ideal candidates are mid-career, tenure-track or research-focused pharmacists. Other interested persons are encouraged to call the Foundation to discuss the program and eligibility.

When to Apply

Letters of intent are due February 28, 2026.
Applications are due March 31, 2026.

Registration Fees

The registration fee covers program costs, materials, and ACCP Foundation-sponsored meals.

More Information

For more information and to download the FIT application, visit www.accpfoundation.org/FIT.

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Focused Investigator Training FIT Program

June 1-5, 2026

UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy



Day 1 - Monday

- 8:00 Welcome & Program Overview
- 8:30 Grant Proposal Development Session I: Introductions and Proposal "Elevator Pitches"
- 12:15 Lunch provided by Foundation
- 1:00 Grant Proposal Development Session II: Writing "Killer" Aims
- 6:00 Team Building Event and Dinner
- Homework: Refine Specific Aims

Day 2 - Tuesday

- 8:00 Grant Proposal Development Session III: Polishing "Killer" Aims
- 12:15 Lunch provided by Foundation
- 1:00 Grant Proposal Development Session IV: Significance & Innovation, Design, Outcomes, and Potential Problems
- 4:00 Individual Work on Aims and Mentor Office Hours
- 6:00 Revised Aims Due to Mentors
- Dinner on Your Own
- Homework: Refine Significance and Innovation, Design, and Outcomes

Day 3 - Wednesday

- 8:00 Grant Proposal Development Session IV (cont)
- 12:15 Lunch provided by Foundation
- 1:00 Mentor Office Hours
One-on-one sessions with mentors
- Work on Proposals
- Dinner on Your Own
- Homework: Integrate Refined Specific Aims, Significance, Innovation, Design, and Outcomes

Day 4 - Thursday

- 8:00 Grant Proposal Development Session V: Data Analysis and Management
- 12:15 Lunch provided by Foundation
- 1:00 Using Secondary Data Sources and/or Navigating the Process of Biomedical Publishing
- 2:30 Work on Proposals
- 3:30 Mentor Office Hours
One-on-one sessions with mentors
- Dinner on Your Own; Work on Proposals
- Homework: Update Data Analysis & Budget

Day 5 - Friday

- 8:00 Maximize Competitiveness: Title, Abstract, & Narrative
- 8:30 Maximize Competitiveness: Cover Letter & Letters of Support
- 9:00 Maximize Competitiveness: Pre-Submission Review
- 10:00 Grant Proposal Development Session VI: Budget and Maximizing Competitiveness
- 12:00 Luncheon Reception Provided by ACCP Foundation
- 1:15 Grant Proposal Development Session Wrap-up and Plans for After Returning Home
- 2:30 Program Conclusion



"The focused and protected time to work on my proposal and receive expert/critical feedback on my proposal were instrumental to my receiving funding, and I've not been able to reproduce the same experience outside the FIT program."