To be NSF eligible to submit a CAREER proposal faculty must meet all of the following eligibility requirements:

- Hold a doctoral degree in a field supported by NSF by the submission deadline (July 19-21, 2017);
- Be engaged in research in an area of science, engineering, or education supported by NSF;
- Be employed in a tenure-track (or tenure-track-equivalent) position as an assistant professor (or equivalent title) as of October 1, 2017
- Be untenured as of October 1, 2017; and
- Have not previously received a CAREER award. (Prior or concurrent Federal support for other types of awards for non-duplicative research does not preclude eligibility.)
- Have not previously had more than 2 previous CAREER proposals reviewed. Proposals that are not reviewed (i.e., are withdrawn before review or are returned without review) do not count toward the three-competition limit.
- Note: Faculty members who are Associate Professors or in equivalent appointments, with or without tenure, are not eligible for the CAREER program. Faculty members who hold Adjunct Faculty or equivalent appointments are not eligible for the CAREER program.