NSF GRFP Research Plan Guide

1. What is the specific question or problem you intend to address?

2. What is your role in this effort? If it is a team/lab effort, interdisciplinary and/or international collaboration, etc., what specific part do you play? How does your work relate to the larger research project?

3. What work has already been accomplished (by yourself and/or by the other team members)? What are your findings to date?

List each hypothesis or specific research questions you intend to address. For each hypothesis, list the method(s) by which you will collect and analyze data.

4. What are the top 3-4 key findings from the existing scholarship surrounding this problem?
5. How have your previous research experiences prepared you to undertake this study?

6. What are the limitations to this study? What issues can you anticipate, and how will you deal with them?

7. How will you assess progress in your study?

8. What results or findings do you anticipate? What is the basis for your assertion?

9. Why is this research necessary? How will your research advance discovery?

10. Who will be interested in or affected by the outcome? How will you communicate your findings?

11. How can you make your research available to the public? Can you involve people from underrepresented groups in your plans?

12. Will your findings have interdisciplinary and/or global implications? Is there potential for international or interdisciplinary collaboration within your research plan?

13. How does this study relate to your long range career goals?

This handout was adapted from GRFP learning materials created by Dr. Robin G. Walker, University of Missouri - Columbia.