NSF Convergence Accelerator

Accelerate Your Research Toward Tangible Results

Harness convergence to solve complex challenges.

The U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) Convergence Accelerator is dedicated to fast-tracking solutions aimed at enhancing U.S. competitiveness and global well-being. Using a convergence approach, the program funds multidisciplinary teams to solve complex challenges by synergizing their use-inspired research through facilitated collaboration.

The NSF Convergence Accelerator speeds convergence research through a two-phase process.

During Phase 1, teams refine their initial research topic into a proof of concept, identify team members and partners for collaboration and participate in the program's comprehensive Innovation Curriculum. Awarded teams receive up to $750,000 in funding. The NSF Convergence Accelerator Innovation Curriculum prepares Awardees to develop a formal Phase 2 proposal and pitch.

Selected teams advance to Phase 2 receiving up to $5 million in funding. During Phase 2, teams focus on developing sustainable and impactful solutions and participate in the program's curriculum designed to unleash an entrepreneurial mindset to ensure each funded solution reaches its full potential.

Visit **new.nsf.gov/funding/initiatives/convergence-accelerator** to learn how the NSF Convergence Accelerator can positively impact your research.

Accelerate solutions toward real-world impact.

Curriculum for collaborative innovation

The NSF Convergence Accelerator provides support to its teams through mentorship and guidance from the program team, including Program Directors and Coaches throughout Phases 1 and 2.

Ready to get involved?

Learn more about the NSF Convergence Accelerator curriculum. Visit:

new.nsf.gov/funding/initiatives/convergence-accelerator/program-model

Phase 1

Phase 1 Innovation Curriculum is delivered over a nine-month period and provides teams with coursework and tools to aid them in the co-design and co-creation of breakthrough technologies and solutions to pressing challenges. Coursework includes:

- **Team science–**Teams develop an internal dynamic that supports effective engagement focused on a unified project vision and common goals.
- **Human-centered design–**Teams collaboratively produce solutions based on user needs. This includes identifying stakeholders, interviewing end users for insights and building prototypes to gather feedback.
- **Communications, storytelling and pitching–**Teams learn how to effectively convey key information about their project, including a value proposition and the challenge the solution is addressing to potential partners, stakeholders, end users and investors.

Phase 2

Building on the coursework of Phase 1, Phase 2 Curriculum provides teams with best practices for their market entry strategy focused on the sustainability of their work and how best to create and launch solutions. Phase 2's coursework, delivered over eight months throughout an estimated two-year timeline, includes:

- **Opportunity assessment–**Teams learn to identify and analyze potential market gaps and needs while designing, prototyping, testing and refining their product or solution.
- **Go-to-market strategies–**Teams acquire strategies for how to develop a roadmap for launching successful products and solutions.
- **Execution planning and financial modeling–**Teams gain knowledge in defining milestones and gathering actionable data as their solutions evolve. Teams also learn to effectively identify, secure and utilize funds.
- **Pitching and fundraising–**Teams continue to apply concepts from Phase 1 to effectively persuade investors, stakeholders and other groups that fit their solution's unique needs. This includes tailoring messages to different audience segments, building partnerships and soliciting feedback.