

**Quality of Project and applicability to program priorities**

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| <b>Section Description</b> | Quality of project and applicability to program priorities. For the NMFS-Sea Grant Fellowship, the project summary should provide evidence of important and innovative research and relate that research to relevant agency priorities.  |
| <b>Points</b>              | 30 Points  |
| <b>Point Scale</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The project summary is unclear and does not adequately address the expectations outlined below (0-10 points);</li><li>- The project summary adequately addresses expectations outlined below (11-20 points);</li><li>- The project summary exceeds expectations outlined below (21-30 points).</li></ul>   |
| <b>Review Criteria</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The project description provides a clear rationale for why the work is important and innovative research;</li><li>- There is a clear scientific or technical objective and/or hypotheses being tested;</li><li>- The discussed methodology and relevance of results are appropriate for the proposed research and time frame;</li><li>- The project is relevant to agency (NOAA) priorities.</li></ul> |
| <b>Notes</b>               | If the proposal is longer than five pages, only the first five will be shared with reviewers.  |

## Academic Record

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| <b>Section Description</b> | Academic record as it relates to quantitative coursework and related fields. For the NMFS-Sea Grant Fellowship the academic record is evaluated using student transcripts (undergraduate AND graduate), the summary of academic training in quantitative methods, and the curriculum vitae (CV).   |
| <b>Points</b>              | 20 Points  |
| <b>Point Scale</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The academic record is unclear and does not adequately address the expectations outlined below (0-6 points);</li><li>- The academic record adequately addresses expectations outlined below (7-13 points);</li><li>- The academic record exceeds expectations outlined below (14-20 points).</li></ul>   |
| <b>Review Criteria</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The project description provides a clear rationale for why the work is important and innovative research;</li><li>- There is a clear scientific or technical objective and/or hypotheses being tested;</li><li>- The discussed methodology and relevance of results are appropriate for the proposed research and time frame;</li><li>- The project is relevant to agency (NOAA) priorities.</li></ul> |
| <b>Notes</b>               | Transcripts can either be official or unofficial. For students who have been accepted but not yet enrolled in a current Ph.D. program, the program's acceptance letter is adequate to fill the requirement of Ph.D. transcripts.   |

### Relevant Experience Related to Diversity of Education

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| <b>Section Description</b> | The student should discuss any relevant coursework and their future year activities. Relevant Coursework: The student may discuss any completed or in progress classes that they deem relevant to their success in the Knauss Program. Future year activities: The student should include a listing of classes and/or plans for spring 2022, summer 2022, and fall 2022. The curriculum vitae, career goal statement, and summary of academic training in quantitative methods will also be considered in the section. |
| <b>Points</b>              | 20 Points  |
| <b>Point Scale</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The relevant experience is unclear and does not adequately address the expectation outlined below (0-6 points);</li> <li>- The relevant experience adequately addresses expectations outlined below (7-13 points);</li> <li>- The relevant experience exceeds expectations outlined below (14-20 points).</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Review Criteria</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The student demonstrates interpersonal, written, or oral communication skills;</li> <li>- The student clearly discusses an interest in the economic of the conservation and management of living marine resources or quantitative marine ecology;</li> <li>- The experiences of the student provide them with the foundation for success in the academic space.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Recommended Length</b>  | One Page single spaced (MAX).  |
| <b>Pro Tip</b>             | Utilize formatting (bold, italics, indentations) to help provide a clear and concise CV.   |

### Overall Application Cohesion

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| <b>Section Description</b> | All aspects of the application materials (CV, summary of academic training in quantitative methods, project summary, education and career goal statement from the student, letters of recommendation).  |
| <b>Points</b>              | 10 Points   |
| <b>Point Scale</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The application is unclear and does not adequately address the expectation outlined below (0-3 points);</li><li>- The application adequately addresses expectations outlined below (4-6 points);</li><li>- The application exceeds expectations outlined below (7-10 points).</li></ul> |
| <b>Review Criteria</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The application materials compliment each other;</li><li>- The student brings an innovative and diverse perspective to the program;</li><li>- The application materials provide a clear picture of what the student would gain from receiving the NMFS-Sea Grant Fellowship.</li></ul>  |
| <b>Pro Tip</b>             | Make sure the pieces of your application do not just repeat one another, but complement and expand on one another as well!  |

| <b>Academic Advisor Letter</b> |  |
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| <b>Section Description</b>     | The student's faculty advisor. The letters should discuss the following attributes of the student: self-motivation, response to setbacks, skills and involvement in teamwork, collaborative leadership skills, academic and performance and/or potential.  |
| <b>Points</b>                  | 10 Points  |
| <b>Point Scale</b>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The advisor letter of recommendation does not adequately address the expectations outlined below (0-3 points);</li> <li>- The advisor letter of recommendation adequately addresses expectations outlined below (4-6 points);</li> <li>- The advisor letter of recommendation exceeds expectations outlined below (7-10 points).</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Review Criteria</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The letter writers demonstrate knowledge of the student and their academic abilities and/or potential;</li> <li>- The letter writer(s) speak to the leadership potential, confidence, maturity, and self-direction of the student;</li> <li>- The letter writer(s) provide evidence of the student's involvement in teamwork and collaborative leadership skills;</li> <li>- The expertise of the major professor(s) will support the student and project.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Recommended Length</b>      | Two Pages single spaced (per letter) (MAX).  |
| <b>Pro Tip</b>                 | Schedule an appointment or meeting with your letter writers well in advance. Discuss the program to which you are applying, the selection criteria, and highlight your most relevant professional experiences. Make this process as easy for the writers as possible!  |

### NMFS Mentor Letter

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| <b>Section Description</b> | The student's NMFS mentor. In addition to noting the NMFS staff member's commitment to serve as a mentor, letters from NMFS mentors should briefly address the relevance of the research to NMFS, as well as a statement of broader impacts of the proposal.  |
| <b>Points</b>              | 10 Points   |
| <b>Point Scale</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The NMFS mentor letter is unclear and does not adequately address the expectation outlined below (0-3 points);</li><li>- The NMFS mentor letter adequately addresses expectations outlined below (4-6 points);</li><li>- The NMFS mentor letter exceeds expectations outlined below (7-10 points).</li></ul>  |
| <b>Review Criteria</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The letter writer(s) demonstrate knowledge of the student and their academic abilities and/or potential;</li><li>- The letter writer(s) adequately address the relevance of the research to NMFS;</li><li>- The letter writer(s) adequately address the broader impacts of the proposal;</li><li>- The expertise of the NMFS mentor will support the student and project.</li></ul> |
| <b>Recommended Length</b>  | Two Pages single spaced (MAX).  |