

National Institutes of Health
Individual Development Plan

Revised Policy: Descriptions on the Use of Individual Development Plans (IDPs) for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Researchers Required in Annual Progress Reports beginning October 1, 2014.

Notice: NOT-OD-14-113

The purpose of this Guide Notice is to revise the policy announced in NOT-OD-13-093, issued on July 23, 2013.

To provide some structured training experience for graduate students and postdoctoral researchers, it was recommended at NIH that there be Individual Development Plans (IDPs) for all NIH-supported graduate student and postdoctoral researchers, whether on training grants, fellowships, or research project grants.

In response to this recommendation, NIH will not require but strongly encourages institutions to develop and use IDPs for graduate students and postdoctoral researchers supported by NIH awards, regardless of their position title. Wake Forest University does not require IDPs either.

IDPs provide a structure for the identification and achievement of career goals. Therefore, NIH encourages grantees to develop institutional policies that employ an IDP for every graduate student and postdoctoral researcher supported by NIH awards. Beginning on October 1, 2014, annual progress reports (Research Performance Progress Reports (RPPR)) are required to include a report of the use of IDPs in Section B. Accomplishments, Question B.4. Actual IDPs should not be included. If an IDP is not being used then state the same.