

Strategic Investment Fund Proposal Checklist

Competitive Strategic Investment Fund proposals have the following characteristics:

- The project has the potential to transform a critical area of knowledge or operation and position the University strategically as one of the world's leading institutions of higher learning.
- The project aligns with one of the following areas:
 - Research
 - Research Infrastructure
 - Access and Affordability
 - Academic Experience
- The project builds on existing strengths and demonstrated success, and is presented within the context of broader initiatives at the unit or institutional level. For example, school-based proposals should be aligned with a school's strategic plan and leverage investments and commitments.
- Research projects should be aligned with the University's research plan as overseen by the Vice President for Research. Projects will not circumvent the pan-University research institute process.
- The funding request does not replace the normal budget process or traditional methods for financing capital projects. For projects which involve long-term capital commitments, Strategic Investment Funds may be awarded to cover the initial three years of debt service while other sources of capital, such as philanthropy, are being secured.
- The project demonstrates areas of synergy where appropriate. For example, needs for similar initiatives, equipment, or other resources are consolidated into one proposal.
- Proposals should strive to leverage, and not replace, external funds (philanthropy, federal grants, etc.) and internal school/departmental funds. Where grant request is for matching funds, the ideal match will be 2:1 (\$2 from other sources for every \$1 SIF award).
- Project funding request will not exceed three years unless there is a compelling business reason for a longer duration. For projects that continue beyond three years, there is a plan for sustainable funding after Strategic Investment Funds are expended.
- A vice president, dean, or other executive leader regards the project as a top priority.