

University of New Hampshire
UP-2-NIH 2013-14

Checklist for Specific Aims Page of NIH Application

Section	Topic	Essential point	Length
<i>Introductory Paragraph</i>	Opening sentence	Relevance to human health	1 sentence
	Current knowledge	Old and recent knowledge of field	1-2 sentences
	Gap in knowledge/unmet need	Define the gap/need that application will fill; evidence of gap/need	2-3 sentences
<i>What, Why, Who Paragraph</i>	Long-term goal	"Big picture" as related to human health; goes beyond period of application	1 sentence
	Objective of this application	What will be accomplished to fill gap/need	1 sentence
	Central hypothesis*	Define focus and direction as a single hypothesis	1 sentence
	Central hypothesis: how formulated	Objective basis for chosen hypothesis	1 sentence
	Rationale	What is possible once work completed	1 sentence
<i>Specific Aims Paragraph</i>	Define Aim #1*	Short, open-ended statement of goal that relates to central hypothesis	1 headline
	Working hypothesis for Aim #1	Narrow focus to "best bet" on outcome	1 sentence
	Define Aim #2*	Leads from Aim #1	1 headline
	Working hypothesis for Aim #2	Not dependent on outcome of Aim #1	1 sentence
<i>Payoff Paragraph</i>	Expected outcomes*	One outcome for each aim	2-3 sentences
	Impact	How field is advanced and human health improved	1 sentence

* Special formatting (bold, italics, underlining) may be used in key headings/sections to draw the reviewer's attention.
However, avoid liberal use of special formatting throughout document.