

Can I meet with a member of BIRCWH leadership to discuss my proposed project? At this time, we are unable to offer one-on-one consultations with prospective candidates. We invite prospective applicants to [register for our virtual information session](#) on Friday, October 3 at 1PM Eastern Time.

Do I need to have a current faculty position in order to apply? All applicants should either be current faculty *or* postdoctoral fellows with a clear pathway to a faculty appointment. To demonstrate adequate time and resources for BIRCWH-funded research, postdoctoral fellows must include a letter of support from your department indicating their intent to transition you to a faculty role within the next year. Staff scientists (non-faculty) are not eligible.

Do faculty applicants need to be tenure-track in order to apply for BIRCWH funding? No. We are interested in your potential to become an independent investigator. Please include a departmental letter attesting to your ability to pursue independent research.

Is prior experience in women's health research required? No, but strong candidates will demonstrate a clear commitment to advancing women's health research. Departmental and mentor letters should include how you will be supported in making this transition.

Am I eligible for BIRCWH if I have a current T23-award? Yes. T23 scholars are welcome to apply for BIRCWH. However, if you are offered a BIRCWH grant, you will need to complete or forfeit your T23 prior to starting BIRCWH.

Am I eligible for BIRCWH if I have a K23-award application currently under review? Yes. Applicants with a pending K23 award are welcome to apply for BIRCWH funding. However, if you are offered both a K23 and BIRCWH grant, you will only be able to accept one.

Am I eligible for BIRCWH if I've received an NIH R-award? No. BIRCWH is intended to prepare early career investigators for independent research. Prior K99/R00 and R-award recipients are not eligible.

How can I ensure that my proposed study aligns with NIH priorities? Applicants are encouraged to review the NIH Director's "[Advancing NIH's Mission Through a Unified Strategy](#)" statement to ensure alignment with current institutional priorities.

How can I confirm whether my research aligns with UNC BIRCWH priorities? The mission of the UNC Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's Health (BIRCWH) Program is to mentor and train early career investigators to become independent interdisciplinary translational science researchers who study high priority areas in women's health, explore biological sex influences on health and disease and also incorporate research strategies to diminish health disparities across the lifespan. Core NIH research priority areas aligning with strengths at UNC include, but are not limited to, maternal health, metabolic disorders, behavioral health, infectious disease, and cancer.

Please email us at BIRCWH@med.unc.edu. We're happy to help assess how your research aligns with the program's goals.

Do reference pages count toward application page counts? No. References pages do not count toward page counts.