Request for Proposals
Data Science Clusters

The Office of the Provost and the Office of Research and Engagement request proposals from faculty groups for support of a data science research cluster. In partnership with Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the university intends to hire up to six tenure-line faculty in order to build capacity in the field of data science.

The successful proposal will build upon existing research strengths, be aligned with ORNL priorities, and demonstrate promise of making UT a leader in the field.

In addition to the above, the cluster proposal should

- Include faculty from at least three departments or colleges
- Show consultation with each of the units, schools, and colleges included in the proposal
- Present a plan for hiring six faculty at various levels (e.g., one full professor, one associate professor, and four assistant professors). Proposals may also include a request for up to two research scientists that will be fully supported through funded external research awards after year three.
- Describe the potential impact of the cluster on interdisciplinary collaboration across the campus

There will be two stages in the submission process:

1. Pre-proposals are due by December 11, 2017, at 5 p.m.
2. Full proposals are due by January 29, 2018, at 5 p.m.

The task force will review pre-proposals and invite the strongest pre-proposals to submit a full proposal. Pre-proposals are required. Full proposals will also be reviewed by the task force. Submit pre-proposals and full proposals by email to avcrd@utk.edu. Include the following text in the subject line: Submission for the Data Science Cluster Hire Proposal.

Pre-proposals must include

- Cover sheet that includes the cluster title, list of faculty with the collaborating academic/research units, and name/contact info of faculty leader (PI)
- Brief (no more than two pages) description of the data science focal area
- Brief (no more than two pages) description of existing strengths in the proposed focal area
Full proposals must include

- Cover sheet, as in pre-proposal
- Rationale for investing in this area, including, but not limited to
  - Existing faculty strength in this area
  - Potential for leveraging existing strength to create new research areas
  - Contribution to campus focus on innovation
  - Alignment with UTK/ORNL combined focal areas (2017–2018; see below)
  - Prospects for future external funding
- Description of the proposed faculty hires, including their faculty rank, likely departmental home, and area of expertise
- Hiring plan
  - Sequence of hiring
  - Search committee composition
  - Likely targets for recruiting
- Budget
  - Salary
  - Start-up
  - Operating
  - Graduate Student support

UT/ORNL combined listing of focal areas
1. Data science (including artificial intelligence, machine learning, deep learning, data analytics, natural language processing, text recognition, visualization, uncertainty, etc.)
2. Polymer science
3. Physical cyber security
4. Biology/biosecurity/bioinformatics/earth systems
5. Mobility/transportation/automobiles/logistics
6. Quantum materials using neutrons
7. Quantum computing
8. Nuclear technologies and systems (and use of small modular reactors)
9. Advanced and additive manufacturing (basic and applied)
10. Food and water (quality and sustainability)
11. Applied social science
12. Physics
13. Cancer moonshot

Questions
Email questions to avcrd@utk.edu. Please include the following text in the subject line: Question on Data Science Cluster Hire Proposal.