

Educational Development Grants

UL Lafayette recognizes that curriculum development, instructional improvement, and faculty growth are ongoing activities in all academic departments on campus. The Office of Academic Planning and Faculty Development facilitates grant programs that provide faculty with funds to enhance the learning of faculty and students through curricular and instructional initiatives, and the enhancement of professional capabilities. These grant programs promote excellence and innovation in university learning.

Requests for funding will be accepted in the following three categories:

1. **Course/Curriculum Design Grants** to establish new or to revise an individual course, set of courses, or an entire departmental curriculum. (\$750-\$1,500)
2. **Instructional Improvement Grants** are designed to promote innovative instruction for specific needs within a given course. (\$250-\$1,000)
3. **Faculty Development Grants** enrich academic and professional skills, and benefit of departments of the University. (\$750-\$1,500)

Course/Curriculum Design

Course/Curriculum Development Grants are intended to support efforts at the departmental or inter-departmental level and focus on modifications, advancements or improvements in the curriculum. Proposals must clearly demonstrate how the proposed work exceeds those curriculum development activities normally expected from an academic unit.

Types of projects may include but are not limited to:

- Encourage innovations in the curriculum;
- Develop and implement new courses or programs;
- Redesign of existing courses or programs;
- Develop and implement new teaching practices among a group of instructors;
- Establish discipline-based programs to support student achievement;
- Develop student research programs
- Assess curricula to understand how and what students are learning;
- Foster initiatives related to retention.

Especially encouraged are proposals for Course/Curriculum Design Grants that identify with strategic imperatives of the 2015-2020 Strategic plan eg. Student SI 1, and SI 4. Further consideration will be given to proposals that target classes that have multiple sections, are heavily subscribed, are critical for student progression, contribute to the general education core, advance Honors offerings, promote undergraduate research, and/or develop capstone courses.

Instructional Improvement Grants

Instructional Improvement Grants are intended to support projects that offer one or more faculty members the opportunity to implement new teaching methodologies, or develop innovative materials. The intent of these grants is to encourage innovation; focus on strategic projects to improve existing courses, develop new courses, evaluate and enhance instruction, and assess curricular needs. Proposals that promote multidisciplinary collaboration, develop student engagement, seek to improve retention in freshman and/or sophomore level courses, engage student research, and/or enhance assessment are strongly encouraged.

Types of projects may include, but are not limited to:

- Development, redesign, and implementation of course materials;
- Innovations in teaching methods or approaches;
- Inclusive teaching practices that foster success for all students;
- Assessment of courses;
- Innovative applications technology in the classroom;
- Initiating research projects in the classroom
- Incorporation of multicultural perspectives through instructional techniques.

Proposals for the Instructional Improvement Grants that identify with the 2015-2020 Strategic Plan particularly Students SI 1, and SI 3, are encouraged. Also encouraged are proposals that address course rigor, promote service learning and civic engagement, develop global understanding, enhance diversity, encourage study groups, promote active learning and student research, focus on speaking or writing skills, and/or that seek to improve classroom assessment.

Faculty Development

The Faculty Development Grant Program supports academic excellence through opportunities that lead to professional growth in teaching, research and service. The intent of these grants is to enrich the faculty member's academic and professional skills, and benefit the departments and/or programs of the University.

Types of projects may include, but are not limited to:

- Faculty and/or graduate teaching assistant educational development activities;
- Enhancement of professional capabilities;
- Training to learn a new teaching technology, pedagogical skill, or research skill;
- Establish a learning community, bringing together faculty with shared scholarly and pedagogical interests;
- Organization of lectures, symposia and conferences for UL Lafayette faculty;
- Workshops and seminars inviting speakers and facilitators to campus, and engaging in disciplinary research and/or the scholarship of teaching and learning;
- Programs to mentor new faculty;
- Subscription to online workshops and webinars;
- Faculty retreats i.e. for writing.

Proposals for the Faculty Development Grants that address the 2015-2016 Strategic Plan including Students, SI 1, Faculty SI 2 specifically KPI 9, Research SI 1, SI 2, SI3, and Governance SI4. Additional consideration will be given to proposals that address teaching technology, pedagogical innovations, research skills, integration and balancing of faculty responsibilities, self-assessment of teaching skills, student engagement in the classroom, strategies for underprepared learners, and/or interdisciplinary collaborations are encouraged.

Types of projects unsuitable for faculty development funding:

- Travel for presentations at meetings, research projects, or panel presentations;
- Activities intended primarily for students.

Types of items unsuitable for funding:

- Pay salaries or stipends to faculty members or GA's;
- Purchase, replace, or repair major equipment (e.g., computers, laptops, tablets, digital cameras, clickers, LCD projectors);
- Pay for small portable items such as flash drives and hard drives.
- Purchase or update standard software or software packages.
- Cover faculty travel, lodging, food, conference registration or other expenses.
- Reimburse expenditures made prior to the grant being awarded.

Eligibility

All full-time faculty continuing, tenure track, and/or tenured faculty including department heads and associate deans are eligible. Although individual faculty members initiate the proposal, they will require endorsements as detailed in the guidelines below. Faculty who receive a grant in academic year must wait an academic year before submitting another proposal.

Deadlines

1. September 21: Submit application online by 5:00 p.m.

Application Instructions

Applications include the following:

- Grant applying for: i.e. Course/Curriculum Design, Instructional Improvement, or Faculty Development
- Attach project abstract and narrative, maximum one 16 MB pdf file.
 - Project abstract: Limit 250 words, with a clear, concise statement about the need and the project
 - Project Narrative: Limit 6 pages double-spaced. Appendices are not included in 6-page limit.
 - Project description and objectives: This should be a concise statement of the nature and objectives of the proposed project.
 - Statement of need: This will justify the need and significance of the proposed work and explain why funding is required.

- NOTE: Both the "Statement of Need" and "Project Description and Objectives" sections must clearly demonstrate how the proposed work enhances educational development activities and thereby justifies funding.
- Plan and Timetable: This should be a description of how and when the project objectives are to be achieved.
- Budget: A detailed budget justification must be included.
- Appendices:
 - References cited
 - Curriculum Vitae of the principal investigator (NOTE: please limit to four pages)

Document Format: proposals for all grants must be double-spaced, have one-inch margins, with 12-point font size with page numbers and last name in footer of each page.

Application Evaluation

The Director of Academic Planning and Faculty Development will appoint a review committee to review the proposals, rank them, and forward its recommendations to the Director of Academic Planning and Faculty Development. While it is understood that the objectives of the grant categories vary, each proposal submitted will be reviewed and ranked by the Committee in terms of the project's overall merit. The Committee will recommend only meritorious proposals for funding, and will make budget recommendations. Each proposal will be rated independently on the following criteria:

- Methods of the project, the appropriateness of the budget, and the probability of attaining its specified objectives.
- Innovative nature of the proposed objective and/or the impact the outcome will have on curriculum development, instructional improvement or faculty development.
- Proposals that are rated unsuitable by a majority of the committee will not be ranked.
- Voting Policy: Each proposal must be read and evaluated by members of the Faculty Grants Committee. Committee members who have a grant under consideration will be excluded from any deliberations. Alternates will take the place of these members. Ex officio committee members may contribute to discussions, but will not take part in the actual ranking of proposals.

Reporting

All funds must be encumbered on or before **April 1** of the academic year the grant is awarded. Grant recipients must file a **Final Project Report by August 30** of the following academic year.

If you have any questions about the online submission process, contact Robert McKinney at rmckinney@louisiana.edu or 25308.