Project Rising Tide Retention and Student Success Initiative

Request for Proposals
Course Innovation 2019 Program

In support of retention and student success, the Office for Academic Affairs seeks proposals from UA faculty for funding to assist them in the redesign of large enrollment courses. A goal of the Rising Tide course innovations grants program is to support faculty seeking to redesign large enrollment classes to increase the academic success of our students. The challenges and objectives of the course might dictate redesign activities such as inclusion of experiential activities, adding new technologies and more. Applicants are encouraged to think big.

Eligibility:
- Faculty interested in redesigning an entire course with enrollment >100 are encouraged to apply.
- Pre-proposals and full proposal submissions must be approved by the appropriate department chair and dean.
- Faculty are strongly encouraged to work with the Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Faculty Resource Center, the Center for Academic Success and the Project Rising Tide Initiative in the Office for Academic Affairs to develop ideas and identify evidence-based project goals prior to submitting a pre-proposal and full proposal.

Preferences are for:

- Projects redesigning whole courses rather than individual sections
- Introductory and general education courses
- Courses with high Drop/Fail/Withdraw (DFW) rates
- Projects with buy-in and supported by departmental faculty, chair, and dean
- Plan for sustainability
- Description of strategies to leverage technology

Proposal Submissions:

Funding will be provided to support initial planning and proposal development, as well as development and implementation activities. Submissions will be solicited in two phases:

- Phase I: Pre-proposals that outline initial ideas for course redesign are due **January 30, 2019**. Please see the pre-proposal instructions below for more information.
- Phase II: Full project proposals to support a range of activities and resources, including summer support for faculty, will be due on **May 1, 2019**. Awards are contingent upon available funding. Please review the full proposal page below for more information below.

Pre-Proposal Submission Instructions
Course Innovation 2019 Program

Pre-proposals that outline initial ideas for course redesign will be due on **January 30, 2019**. As part of the pre-proposal, faculty may apply for up to $2,000 to cover costs for planning a significant course redesign. Funds can be used to attend relevant conferences, visit other universities, purchase books or other materials that will assist in preparation of the final proposal. Faculty will be notified by **mid-February, 2019**, whether they have been awarded pre-proposal funding.

Recipients of pre-proposal funding are expected to submit a **Full Proposal** that details the redesign activities for a specific large enrollment course, with a target of implementing the redesigned course in the 2019-2020academic year.

A 3-5 page Pre-Proposal should include the following:

- Course name and number
- Brief course description
- Average number of students in a course section
- Average number of sections taught within a semester
- Brief description of course format and assessments
- Barriers to student learning and engagement
- Proposed transformation to overcome barriers
- Funding requested and description of activities (if applicable)
- Cover page with signatures of appropriate department chair and dean

*Note: if the course is taught in multiple sections, the pre-proposal should address consistency across all sections and provide evidence of a commitment among course instructors to collaborate on alignment across multiple sections.

Please email Pre-Proposals to Tierney Jenkins at tjenkins2@ua.edu by **January 30, 2019**.

For questions on the OAA Project Rising Tide Initiative or on proposal submissions, contact Patty Sobecky at psobecky@ua.edu

Full Proposals Instructions
Course Innovation 2019 Program

Full project proposals will be due on **May 1, 2019**. Funds can be used to support a range of activities and resources, including summer support for faculty. The objective of this phase is to develop a comprehensive proposal for implementing the course transformation. It is expected that the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and the Faculty Resource Center will be heavily involved in the implementation phase. Staff and faculty will be available to provide assistance in revising syllabi, designing learning activities, developing assessment strategies, and consulting on classroom teaching strategies.

The Full Proposal should include these elements:
1. Cover Sheet, including:
   - Project title
   - Name, contact information, and signature of the corresponding PI/Project Director
   - Name and signature of PI/ Project Director's department chair
   - Total funds requested
2. Executive Summary including highlights from the body of the proposal
3. Key Project Personnel
4. Body of the Proposal, including:
   - Course name, number, and description including average number of students in a course section and average number of course sections taught in a semester
   - A description of current course format and assessment of student learning
   - A description of the proposed transformation
   - A clear statement of the goals and rationale of the proposed course transformation including a description of how the proposed transformation will achieve the project goals
   - A statement on impact that identifies the number of students to be positively affected by the redesigned course
   - A sustainability statement that explains how the goals of the course transformation will be maintained across course sections and beyond the period of funding
   - A description of how the effectiveness of the course transformation will be assessed including methods for data collection and analysis
5. Budget and Budget Justification, including, but not limited to:
   - Purchase of supplies and equipment needed for the project and unavailable from departmental, or other University sources
   - Purchases or costs for development of new instructional resources
   - Student assistant salaries along with a description of duties
   - Travel to acquire necessary project resources or to obtain training
   - Project-related consultant costs
   - One month of faculty summer salary (including fringe benefits charges)
   - Note: Unacceptable budget items include travel and maintenance costs for participation at professional meetings, subscriptions and professional journal costs, editorial assistance, and release time from teaching assignments.
6. Required Letter(s) of Support for the proposal from all co-PI/project director(s), department chair, and/or dean.
7. Required Appendix consisting of most recent course syllabus
8. Optional Appendices for references, figures and tables, and/or additional letters of support

If your **Pre-Proposal** is approved, you will be notified by **mid-February, 2019** and asked to submit a **Full Proposal**.
Full Proposals should be sent to Tierney Jenkins (tjenkins2@ua.edu).

For questions on the OAA Project Rising Tide Initiative or proposal submissions contact Patty Sobecky at psobecky@ua.edu
Full Proposals will be due on **May 1, 2019**.