Improving Student Success in Science  
Office of the Dean, College of Science  
New Funding initiative

Program Description

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Proposal deadline: June 29, 2018
Notification of award: July 30, 2018
Projected award start date: September 1, 2018
Duration: 1 year, typically (but up to 2 years or request for extensions will be considered)
Anticipated award amount: up to $10,000 from COS + Department commitment

The College of Science Strategic Plan for 2017-2025 emphasizes the College’s commitment to a transformative student experience. In particular, the plan states the College’s intention to build a strong foundation for academic programs based on unique and progressive curricula, innovative teaching and mentorship, and a nurturing environment that would instill curiosity, inspire, and empower students to learn and discover knowledge.

Accordingly, the purpose of this RFP is to support faculty in the College of Science in designing initiatives to transform the students’ academic experience and will lead to improved student success and reduced barriers to graduation.

Suggestions for possible projects are listed below, but programs could propose other projects as well.

Grants of up to $10,000 will be awarded to support the new initiatives. For this first round, preference will be given to proposals that will be designed in Fall 2018 and launched in Spring 2019. However, all proposal submissions will be considered. The result of the grant should be proposed change(s) that are approved by the department’s faculty and submitted to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs along with a final report summarizing the work done on the project.

Some possible projects include, but are not limited to:

1. Redesign of curriculum to streamline the pathway to graduation
2. Redesign of course(s) to improve student success or increase student access by
   - Implementing new teaching methodologies for major, service or general education courses with high failure rates (defined as 30% or more of students receiving grades of D, F or withdrawing from course) to reduce those rates
• Implementing new teaching methodologies for high demand major, service or general education courses to be able to serve more students

• Redesigning service courses collaboratively between programs that use the course and those that offer the course to increase student success or access to the course

• Introducing new technology or course materials to increase active learning in the course to improve student engagement and success in the course

Redesign efforts that implement evidence-based high impact practices (HIPs) for a given discipline are strongly encouraged.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION AND PREPARATION GUIDELINES

1. Please address the following 5 items in a 3 to 5-page proposal.

   1a. State the nature of the curricular change to be addressed and describe, using literature review, why this idea is believed to be a promising approach to improving student success. The plan should take into consideration resources such as space, library resources, teaching equipment, etc.

   1b. What is the expected impact of this project? How many students will be impacted each semester/year? What is this project’s potential to be scaled up (for broader implementation) and what is the potential impact on the college as a whole?

   1c. Who will be involved in addressing this problem? How will the work be organized and completed (including a rough timeline)? How will faculty as a whole be notified about and/or engaged in the project?

   1d. Once the changes have been implemented, how will you know if they’ve been successful? Would you expect to see an increased number of graduates, more students retained in the major, more students obtaining a C or better, and/or a reduction in time to degree?

2. Prepare a brief budget request for the project. Funds can be used to pay stipends to faculty, hospitality for a retreat, release time (at standard replacement rate), or hourly salary for student assistants. The request should indicate the items requested, amounts, and totals.

Deadline and Submission of applications: Each proposal must be submitted as a SINGLE PDF file by e-mail to cordero@uta.edu on or before 5 PM, Friday, June 29, 2018. Proposals should be submitted as a single PDF document; proposals submitted in multiple parts will be returned without review. Each proposal must bear the approval signatures of the PI(s) and the department Chair(s). Electronic/digital signatures are acceptable. Recipients will be informed of the outcome around July 30th. Funds will be disbursed by September 1 and must be spent by the end of the agreed duration (e.g., 1 year, by August 31, 2019). Any unspent funds provided by the COS will revert back to the COS.

Eligibility: All full-time faculty (both Tenure/Tenure track and Non-tenure track) are eligible to apply. Each faculty member is limited to one application on which he or she is the lead PI and one other application as co-PI.
Questions: Any questions about the grants can be directed to Minerva Cordero (cordero@uta.edu).

**MERIT REVIEW PROCESS**

Each proposal will be reviewed by a committee of faculty from the COS. The criteria for evaluation of the proposals are as follows.

Criteria for review of proposals

1. Significance of the proposal (25 points): The proposed project should improve the success/access of students majoring in science and/or students in high-failure high-demand courses. The likelihood of the project to generate sustainable change. The originality and uniqueness of the proposal will be considered. The applicant(s) must demonstrate knowledge of successful practices by citing and reviewing relevant literature.

2. Proposed approach (30 points): The proposal should outline the objectives or specific aims, methodology, expected outcomes, proposed evaluation, plans for future studies, and broader impacts. The proposal’s objectives should be clear and concise and understandable to the reviewers.

3. Feasibility (25 points): The proposal must establish the feasibility of the proposed activities in terms of proposed timeline and proposed budget. The PI must also demonstrate that the project is feasible with the existing physical resources and personnel.

4. Applicant’s record and preparation (10 points): The applicant must demonstrate that he/she has the ability to carry out the project.

5. Budget and cost effectiveness (10 points): The proposed budget must be commensurate with the proposed project.

**POST-AWARD RESPONSIBILITIES**

All recipients of the internal grants must submit a two-page report using the appropriate form within two months of the termination of the grant period.