Request for Online Teaching and Learning Proposals

The Office of the Provost seeks proposals for the fourth round of funding for online projects to be undertaken during the 2017-18 academic year.

With support from the Chief Information Officer, the Office of General Studies, and through the Online Teaching and Learning Initiative (OTL) this program has provided seed funding for proposals that support the following strategic goals of the University:

1) Attracting and retaining enrollments
2) Developing and extending access to new academic programs
3) Promoting learner engagement and quality,
4) Attracting new resources.

Information on previously funded projects can be found here.

Funding options

Proposals are sought from academic departments, programs, or schools/colleges that strategically address specific curricular, enrollment, institutional, and disciplinary needs. All proposals must be endorsed by the Dean of the College or School. The following funding models will be considered:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project type</th>
<th>Funding available</th>
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<tr>
<td>Development of fully-online and blended courses to be offered during the fall or Spring terms. These courses must integrate with and apply to existing or proposed online degree or certificate programs.</td>
<td>Up to $4,000 stipend</td>
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<td>Projects that provide multiple, related online courses that extend the reach of an academic program (e.g., core courses of an academic program or major)</td>
<td>Up to $15,000</td>
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<td>Projects aimed to create new fully-online programs with a demonstrated appeal to new student populations. These proposals will receive fast track review, support from ITS and ITLAL as well as assistance procuring additional funding from other sources.</td>
<td>Up to $25,000 per year during the development of the program</td>
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<td>Purchase of equipment, software, hardware to expand access, improve quality, or otherwise enhance the program or for the development of a grant proposal to an external funding agency.</td>
<td>Up to $5000</td>
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<td>Other types of projects may also be considered</td>
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Proposal Process

Proposals require the endorsement of the Dean of the College/School from which they originate. They should be transmitted with endorsement through the Dean electronically to the Office of the Provost at the following email: jcole4@albany.edu

Deadline: April 3, 2017; funding available after July 1 2017

Proposal Format: Maximum 5-page application including the following:

- **Rationale**: Brief description of the anticipated demand for and impact of the proposed project, and University goals the proposal supports

- **Scope of the proposal: goal of the project, as appropriate** titles of courses to be developed, timeframe for development, semester when courses would be offered, anticipated enrollment as appropriate. For software or equipment, a full description of the initiative. For external funding proposals, agency, timeline, anticipated funding etc.

- **Budget**: indicating how funds will be used.

Criteria for selection: Proposals will be reviewed by members of the OTL Steering Committee as to whether the
proposal reflects one of the stated priorities, meaningfully extends the reach of an academic program, and is feasible given the resources and time allocated. For fully online courses/programs, estimates of new enrollments will assist with assessing the merit of the proposal. Proposals that are designed to offer online coursework/programs in both the academic year and in summer and/or winter sessions will also be a priority for funding.

**Funded Project Requirements**

A written project progress report and final outcomes will be required at the end of the academic year, ideally delivered either at an OTL Steering Committee meeting and/or a faculty development workshop.

All supported courses must meet University standards for excellence in online teaching. Faculty who have never taught online must consult with staff from ITLAL or ITS Faculty Technology Resources (FTR) and participate in a program in instructional design and online pedagogical approaches. More advanced online course development will be eligible for higher levels of funding, and will also receive staff support for these enhanced efforts. More advanced courses may also be used as exemplars for design demonstrations or workshops (with permission of the instructor). Note: Courses previously supported-- or previously offered online during summer or winter -- must demonstrate the additional benefit of renewed investment.

**Priorities**

Project outcomes should reflect one of the following University priority areas:

*Attracting and Retaining New Enrollments*

Projects which have as a goal to develop online courses, programs, or supports that result in new enrollments, or enhanced quality of service to existing online students. This priority also includes innovative efforts to better serve out-of-state and international students, enhance diversity, or attract qualified students who otherwise would not attend the University. Possible approaches include the development of online learning opportunities that prepare international or underrepresented populations of students for attendance at the University before they arrive or provide options for blending distance education with on-campus learning. Successful proposals will articulate a promising approach that utilizes online and distance learning for reaching new student populations and thus advancing this strategic goal of the University.

*Expanding Academic Offerings*

Proposals that seek to develop online programs that provide expanded access to either existing or new academic offerings. Examples include general education courses offered during the academic year and thus support the goal of making undergraduate education more accessible for students with work or family commitments or who live at a distance from campus. This proposal also solicits more ambitious proposals that seek to develop several related online courses (such as core courses) or entire degree programs to be offered online. Market analysis indicates that the top fields in demand for online delivery include Business, Computers/IT, Health, Arts/Humanities, Social Science, Criminal Justice, Law, Science/Technology/Engineering/Mathematics, Education/Teaching, and Counseling/Human Services.

*Promoting Learner Engagement*

Proposals that seek to enhance online student engagement and quality of the online experience through better pedagogy, technology, support, or services. This includes support for projects that seek to ensure and improve the quality of interaction, engagement, and all forms of instruction and learning for online students. Proposals that show potential for broader impact and scale will be funded at higher levels.

*Attracting New Resources*

Proposals for seed funding to develop applications that compete for external resources to support either online course/program development and/or funded research related to online teaching and learning. Examples include small grants that support convening faculty and staff necessary to develop a proposal to, for example, the SUNY High Needs program, SUNY IITG, the National Science Foundation, The Institute for Education Science or a private philanthropic agency. Proposals that are submitted to an external funding agency that do not win support from that agency may be considered for partial support internally, either for resubmittal elsewhere or to pilot efforts outlined in the application.