



University of Massachusetts

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Information Technology Council Subcommittee on Academic Technology

Call for Proposals: ENHANCING TEACHING AND LEARNING THROUGH THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY

Proposals are being solicited from University of Massachusetts faculty and staff to demonstrate the use of electronic technologies and telecommunications to improve students' learning and enhance their academic experience. These grants promote academic developments and collateral activities that will:

- Encourage effective use of a variety of existing and emerging instructional technology tools by faculty.
- Advance the assessment of technology-mediated student learning outcomes.
- Disseminate best practices to other faculty to help them think about new ways of teaching students.
- Cross traditional academic disciplines and campus boundaries
- Advance the system's goal of delivering high quality academic instruction to the broadest possible constituencies without regard to geography.
- Demonstrate the marketability of courses, seminars and electronic tools beyond the individual campus and the University system.
- Fulfill the objectives the Professional Development Grant track or the Strategic Initiative Grant Track, as described below.

Award:	\$2,000 - \$8,000 for Professional Development Grants (up to \$12,000 for projects of exceptional merit and including multi-campus participation) \$8,000 - \$25,000 For Strategic Initiative Grants, including Assessment/ePortfolios and Tablet PC's Departmental, Interdepartmental, and multi-campus initiatives are especially encouraged in both categories.
Proposal Deadline:	Friday, March 17, 2006
Award Notification:	Friday, April 28, 2006

Each submission should describe a deliverable component using technology that will improve the academic experience of students. These grants are intended to encourage innovative uses of technology through pilot initiatives and will not provide funding for established initiatives.

Professional Development Grants

Professional Development Grants may involve individual faculty or groups of faculty who wish to enhance their teaching by undertaking such activities as the following:

- Develop new teaching strategies that take advantage of electronic technology (e.g., substantially revising a course or courses to capitalize on particular features of technology, such as WebCT Vista's tools for faculty and student interaction)
- Develop or explore new technology in support of effective teaching

Strategic Initiative Grants

Strategic Initiative Grants will typically involve larger scale projects involving significant leading edge technologies. These projects should explicitly address cross-campus imperatives as identified in the Subcommittee on Academic Technology's vision and planning document, Academic Technology for Teaching and Learning* and the President's Office's strategic priority to "improve the student learning experience at the University of Massachusetts" through more effective use of technology in the classroom and the delivery of student services."

Strategic Initiatives grantees will be required to share their explorations with the larger University community at a Spring 2007 symposium, and may also be asked to demonstrate their work in smaller settings. Professional Development Grant winners will submit interim and final reports to the Subcommittee on Academic Technology, and may be asked, as appropriate, to share their experience with the larger community.

Proposals are sought that involve groups of faculty and/or staff in advancing understanding and practice in the following areas:

Assessment of Learning Outcomes Using technology, Including Electronic Portfolios.

Proposals in this area could involve the application of innovative technology to one or more of the following objectives:

- Assessment of learning's nature and extent (as opposed to assigning of grades), and for the measurement of learning improvement
- Assessment that enables further learning e.g., student self assessments, peer editing, practice tests and quizzes
- Encouragement of students to employ constructive learning behaviors, including reflection and self-assessment
- Enhancement of instructor feedback of student work
- Assessment of course or program outcomes

Teaching/Learning with Tablet PCs and/or Other Leading Edge Applications. The President's Office is encouraging faculty to explore the use of portable devices that facilitate faculty-student and student-student interaction through such means as the following: effective feedback to students (e.g., via inking and network technology); effective note taking and marking up for students and faculty; connectivity; portability; real-time analysis and presentation of course material. We are especially interested in multi-course, program-wide, and cross campus initiatives that could address alternative hardware and software configurations, as well as pedagogical settings.

* http://www.massachusetts.edu/administration/itc/pdfs/Vision_planJanuary2005-Version8.1.pdf

Preparing a Proposal for a Professional Development Grant or a Strategic Initiative Grant

Proposal Format

The proposal should include a cover page with the information listed below and up to five pages (minimum of size 12 font) covering the remainder of the information about the project. Only the first five pages will be considered if more than five pages are submitted. Letters of support are not included in the five page limit.

1. COVER PAGE (not included in the 5 page limit)

- Project Title
- Project Category (Professional Development Grant or Strategic Initiative Grant)
- Principal Investigator and Title
- Other Participants and Titles
- Mailing Address, Electronic Mail Address, and Telephone Number of All Participants
- Campuses and Disciplines involved
- Total Amount of Funds Requested - please specify distribution by campus
Typical project awards: **Professional Development Grants**, \$4,000 - \$8,000, or up to \$12,000 for projects of exceptional merit and including multi-campus participation;
Strategic Initiative Grants, \$8,000 - \$25,000.
- Concise project summary (limit 250 words)
- Signatures of Investigator's Department Chair and Dean

2. PROJECT NARRATIVE

The project narrative should define the goals of the project and identify the methodology for achieving those goals. It should also describe how this project will support the goals of the Professional Development Grant program and how the experience gained from this project might be leveraged for external funding in future years. It will be important to identify as specifically as possible the teaching and learning goals and activities affected by the project. Strategic Initiative Grant submissions should identify the prospective technologies and their link to teaching/learning goals, objectives, and processes. Strategic Initiative Grant submissions should also discuss how participants intend to capitalize on UMass funding to seek outside support further down the road.

3. PROJECT DELIVERABLE

A description of the project deliverable should be included. Past grant recipients have created such deliverables as multimedia courseware, distance learning courses, and World Wide Web sites for class material.

4. DISSEMINATION OF PROJECT RESULTS

Describe how the results of the project will be disseminated.

5. PROJECT BUDGET

All grant expenses must be detailed in this section and directly relate to production of the deliverable. The typical Professional Development Grant project award will be in the range of \$4,000 - \$8,000. PDG Projects of exceptional merit may receive up to \$12,000. Strategic Initiative Grant projects may receive up to \$25,000. If this request is part of a larger project, please indicate how the remainder of the funds will be obtained or what portion can be accomplished with the requested amount. Your budget may include release time or outside funding provided written authorization from the appropriate campus official is included in your proposal. Project funding will be available in June 2006 and must be expended by May 2007.

6. PROJECT TIMETABLE

Identify key milestones in your project. The project must be completed and demonstrable by May 1, 2007. The final report is due by June 1, 2007.

7. PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR, PARTICIPANTS AND QUALIFICATIONS

Provide brief qualifications for the Principal Investigator and the primary contact person from each of the other campuses involved in the project. Identify other participants. All permanent UMass faculty and staff are eligible to apply as Principal Investigators for Professional Development Grants.

8. LETTERS OF SUPPORT

The following letters of support must be provided. Please note that a proposal will be considered incomplete without the required letters of support and therefore will not be considered for an award.

- All participants must provide a letter indicating their level of participation in the project. No participant will be considered part of the project without a letter of support.
- If the project deliverable is a distance learning course that will be available to other campuses, include a letter of agreement from each receiving organization (Dean or Department Head). If the course will be offered through a web-based distance learning program such as UMassOnline or the campus Continuing Education department, include a letter of support from the director of the organization.

Proposal Submission

Proposals must be received at the address listed below by Friday, March 17, 2006, at 5 p.m. Please allow for the delivery time of your medium to ensure that it arrives by the deadline. Proposals arriving after the deadline will not be considered.

A copy of the proposal must be filed with the Provost of each campus involved in the proposal. The selection committee may consult with Provosts concerning campus priorities.

Submission Methods. We request that proposals be submitted via Email as an attachment in basic text or Microsoft Word format to umass.pdg@umassp.edu. In addition, the Cover Page, with its signatures, must also be sent via University Courier Service or other conventional mail carriers. You may choose to submit your entire proposal in this fashion. The mailing address is:

Academic Technology Grant Proposals
Attention: Mark Schlesinger, Associate Vice President for Academic Technology
University of Massachusetts
225 Franklin Street 12th floor
Boston, MA 02110

Expectations for Recipients

In addition to the interim and final report, recipients are expected to participate in UMass-sponsored seminars, conferences or workshops with other award winners to describe their experiences and demonstrate their work. See track descriptions for more specifics.

Additional Information

A web site is available which provides information about current and past Professional Development awards and recipients.

<http://www.massachusetts.edu/administration/itc/pdgrants/pdgrants.html>

For additional information, contact:

Mark Schlesinger, Associate Vice President for Academic Technology
President's Office
Telephone: (617) 287-7102
EMail: umass.pdg@umassp.edu

SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

- COVER PAGE
 - o Title
 - o Category (PDG, Strategic Initiative)
 - o Principal Investigator and Title
 - o Other Investigators and Titles
 - o Mail, Email, and Telephone for All Participants
 - o Campuses/Departments/Disciplines Involved
 - o Amount Requested (specific for each campus)
 - o Summary (250 words or less)
 - o Signatures
 - Department Chair
 - Dean
- NARRATIVE
- DELIVERABLE
- DISSEMINATION OF PROJECT RESULTS
- BUDGET
 - o All expenses; show how they are related to the deliverable
 - o Other funds Involved (if any): How obtained; How related to the requested amount)
 - o Official authorization for load reduction, if requested
- TIMETABLE
- PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR, CAMPUS PRIMARY CONTACT, OTHER PARTICIPANTS: Brief qualifications
- LETTERS OF SUPPORT FROM:
 - o Each participant
 - o Dean or Department Head of organization receiving a proposed distance learning course
 - o Director of unit sponsoring web-based distance learning (e.g., Continuing Education)
- SUBMISSION
 - o By March 17, 5:00 p.m.
 - o Copy to Provost of each campus involved in the proposal