

Office of the Provost

University of South Carolina

Distributed Learning Course Development

Grant Program

Program Guidelines

Announcement Release Date:	September 9, 2014
Application Receipt Deadline:	December 8, 2014
Award Announcement Date:	February 2, 2015

Purpose

The purpose of this program is to create state-of-the-art Distributed Learning (DL) courses that will enhance the overall quality, scope, and reach of teaching and learning at the University of South Carolina. This will be accomplished by providing financial incentives, expert instructional design assistance, and technological support to faculty to develop and implement courses for delivery through Distributed Learning methods.

Distributed Learning combines technology with innovative teaching tools and resources to facilitate access to educational content and help students learn. Through DL, students can have guided pathways for discovery, interact with instructional content, faculty, and other students, and be engaged in collaborative activities. Distributed Learning supports the needs of nontraditional and geographically disadvantaged students who may otherwise have barriers to educational opportunities. Distributed Learning includes fully on-line, site-to-site, and blended courses. Blended courses are mixed delivery mode courses which both meet in a traditional classroom, studio or lab and provide on-line instruction. Blended courses which create a “flipped classroom” are especially valuable.

Eligible Principal Instructors

Eligible applicants include all full-time faculty at USC Columbia and Regional Campuses (Lancaster, Salkehatchie, Sumter, Union). It is expected that the faculty member submitting the proposal will serve as the Principal Instructor (PI) for the course the first time it is offered. PIs are eligible to receive funding for no more than one course per grant cycle, except in cases in which a two-course connected sequence (e.g., CHEM 111, 112) might be effectively covered by a single proposal. Prior recipients of Distributed Learning Course Development Grants must have submitted final project reports in order to be eligible for funding under this solicitation.

Eligible Courses

Proposals in response to this year's solicitation must focus on the development or revision of courses that use Distributed Learning pedagogy and technologies to create either fully on-line asynchronous courses or blended courses which produce flipped classrooms. PIs are encouraged to use the Quality Matters Rubric, which is a guide to best practices for distributed learning courses.

http://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/provost/faculty/grants/distributedlearning.php



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Furthermore, the development of courses where 100% of the instruction is fully online is a priority. Proposals for simply adding a few online components to traditional courses, or making minor changes to existing distributed learning courses, will not be competitive.

Funds Available and Project Timeframe

Projects are eligible for funding of up to \$8,000 per course project. An applicant may request a period of up to fifteen (15) months, beginning May 18, 2015, and ending August 15, 2016, in which to develop a course and submit it for approval following policies outlined in [ACAF 2.03](#).

Expectations during the Grant Period

Principal Instructors receiving awards will be expected to:

- Collaborate on a regular basis with an Instructional Designer from the [Center for Teaching Excellence](#) (CTE) to design and develop the proposed course.
- Consult with the [Office of Student Disability Services](#) to assure the course can meet requirements for accessibility according to the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Participate, when possible, in CTE facilitated meetings with other grant recipients to discuss Distributed Learning strategies.
- Attend CTE workshops on issues related to Distributed Learning during the term of the grant.
- Submit the course for University approval using the Distance Education Delivery form (<http://www.sc.edu/provost/forms/DistanceEducationDeliveryDED.pdf>). Approval of the department chair and dean is required. If required, the course must be submitted to the Faculty Senate's Committee on Instructional Development for approval. All course creation/revisions must follow University policies as outlined in [ACAF 2.03](#) and its [Appendices](#). This information may be found at: <http://www.sc.edu/policies/acaf203.pdf> and <http://www.sc.edu/policies/acaf203.pdf>.
- Complete the development of the proposed DL course by the end of the grant term.
- Submit a final report (see below) to Senior Vice Provost Lacy Ford (ford@mailbox.sc.edu) in the Office of the Provost.

Final Report

The final report for the grant program is a course proposal submitted to the Faculty Senate's Committee on Instructional Development. The final report can be submitted at any time, but is due no later than 90 days after the end of the grant term. Exceptions due to extenuating circumstances must be approved, in writing, by the Office of the Provost.

Proposal Preparation

Each Principal Instructor should submit a proposal that includes a proposal coversheet, a project description, and a budget. These three proposal components should be combined into a single Microsoft Word, or, preferably, Adobe PDF file. The file must be uploaded to USCeRA, as described later in this document.

Coversheet

Complete the proposal coversheet (attached). The coversheet can be downloaded from <http://sc.edu/provost/forms/DistLearningGrantForms.doc>

http://www.sc.edu/about/offices_and_divisions/provost/faculty/grants/distributedlearning.php



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Project Description

The Project Description should not exceed 4 single pages using single-spacing, 12 point font, and 1 inch margins in all directions. It should include the following information.

1. Course Description
 - a. Briefly describe the course, expanding upon the Bulletin course description as appropriate. Indicate the degree program(s) that it supports. This description should be accessible to faculty in other disciplines.
 - b. State the specific learning outcomes for the proposed course.
 - c. If the project involves developing a Distributed Learning course from a traditional course, describe why delivering the course with DL methods is important to the University, academic unit, and/or curricular objectives. If the project involves revising an existing DL course, justify the need to change pedagogy, technology, or other course components.
2. Proposed Work
 - a. Describe the Distributed Learning methods that you propose to use to meet and demonstrate the course learning outcomes and/or other course objectives. If you are not sure, describe how you will go about determining the DL instructional materials, teaching methods, student assessment and other course components.
 - b. If you propose a blended model, describe how time in class will relate to time spent on DL activities.
 - c. Describe the course development activities during the grant period, including the role played by Instructional Designers or other personnel. Include a timeline for course design, development, and implementation.
 - d. Discuss other resources available to support the course development, if any.
3. Principal Instructor Information
 - a. Describe your qualifications as instructor of record for the proposed course.
 - b. Provide a brief description of why you would like to develop this particular course for DL offering. If the PI has received a grant from this program before, a copy of the final report from that project must be submitted along with this application.
4. Other Information pertinent to this project. (optional)

Budget

Include a budget and budget justification, not to exceed two pages combined. The budget should itemize personnel, other costs and the total funds requested. The budget justification should describe the roles of personnel to be supported, detail other costs to the extent possible at this time, and justify how travel costs (if any) support course development activities. PIs should follow the attached budget template, which can be downloaded from <http://sc.edu/provost/forms/DistLearningGrantForms.doc>

Allowable Costs

- Faculty salary support for summer compensation in compliance with university policy as governed by HR 1.81.
- Course buy-out is limited up to \$5,000 for one course, inclusive of any associated fringe benefits cost and requires a letter of support from the department or unit chair.
- Purchase of hardware or software, course content items, data sets or specialized development services for the course. These needs will typically be established while working with the CTE instructional designer during the exploration and analysis phase of the project. An estimate of software and hardware needs should be included as part of the budget.
- Salary and fringe benefits of undergraduate and graduate students who assist in the course development process. Provide specific details regarding their role.
- Travel to professional meetings related to Distributed Learning if important to the course design and development processes. Sufficient justification must be provided.
- ***Note: All expenditures must be made in accordance with University policies.***

Unallowable Costs

- Compensation for CTE and UTS staff (these costs are covered by the University)
- Tuition and fees for undergraduate or graduate students
- Outside consultants or vendors

Proposal Submission and Review

USCeRA Proposal Submission Instruction

Prior to submission, review your complete proposal (Coversheet, Project Description, and Budget) to ensure that it is contained in a single Word or PDF document, that it contains all of the required information, and is formatted appropriately.

You must submit your completed proposal packet through USCeRA (<https://sam.research.sc.edu/uscera>) and get APPROVAL from your chair, dean and/or chancellor **before 5:00 pm on December 8, 2014**. You will receive e-mails from USCeRA indicating when your proposal has been approved by your department chair, dean, etc.

1. Select “Create New Proposal” in USCeRA. Begin by filling out the information on the Proposal/Award Processing Form (PAP). The top part of the form includes information such as your project title, dates of performance, and your total requested budget.
2. **IMPORTANT:** Under “Internal Requests,” you must select “Yes.” Then you must check the box next to the word “Provost,” and select the appropriate Provost’s funding opportunity from the drop-down menu. Failure to do this may cause your proposal to be misrouted or not routed at all.
3. Make sure you answer all of the “Yes/No” questions on the PAP form.
4. For Question #9, check “no.”
5. For Question #12, “Does your project involve human subjects?” check “no.”
6. Hit “Save” on the PAP form when you have entered all of the information. The system will alert you if you have failed to complete any required information.
7. On the next page, select “Internal Commit Form.” The Internal Commit Form should be used to list the amount that you are requesting from the Provost’s Office. Do not enter an amount in the Start-Up box. Enter in the amount that you are requesting for each year in the corresponding box. The total will calculate automatically for you. Do NOT use this form to enter cost share.
8. Upload your proposal as ONE file using Adobe PDF format; use your surname as the file name. (Example: JonesF_GEOL399)
9. DO NOT FORGET TO HIT THE SUBMIT BUTTON! Again, you will receive e-mails from USCeRA indicating when your proposal has been approved by your department chair, dean, etc. You always can log-on to the system to check on the status of your proposal. Once the proposal has been routed appropriately to the Office of the Provost, you will receive an acknowledgement. **If you do not receive an acknowledgement within five (5) days of submission, your proposal has not been submitted properly.**
10. Questions on proposal submission should be directed to Derlene Lowder, Office of the Provost, lowder@mailbox.sc.edu, 777-5315
11. Questions regarding USCeRA should be directed to uscera@mailbox.sc.edu

Review Process

Proposals will be reviewed and ranked by the Distributed Learning Grant Review Committee. The committee will make recommendations for funding to the Provost and awards will be made by the Provost. The number of awards will be contingent on the number and quality of applications received as well as the amount allocated per application. Decisions will

be made based on the quality of the proposal, the reasonableness of the budget, and the likelihood that the proposed course would enhance the quality or extend the reach of USC's Distributed Learning program.

The quality of the proposal and reasonableness of the budget will be assessed based on the following factors:

- Course Description, Proposed Work and Principal Instructor sections of the proposal are complete and well-written.
- Course will provide a platform for demonstrating distributed learning best practices.
- Proposal makes a compelling argument for the need for and use of grant funds.

The likelihood that the course will enhance the quality or extend the reach of USC's Distributed Learning program

will be judged within the context of the degree program(s) that it supports. Examples that illustrate merit in this area appear below.

- Enhances offerings for Carolina Core Curriculum and/or Palmetto College.
- Reduces classroom scheduling or expands the ability to offer course to more students.
- Facilitates flexibility of access (time and place) for student engagement with course activities/materials that otherwise may only be available at specific hours.
- Facilitates timely degree completion for students.
- Assists in development of graduate and certificate programs.
- Provides the University with a course that has unique appeal, or improves University online competitiveness with other institutions.
- Offers students greater options for core or required courses for degree completion.
- Opens courses to students regardless of campus or physical location.

For more information, contact:

Derlene Lowder, Office of the Provost, lowderd@mailbox.sc.edu, 777-5315

The Distributed Learning Course Development Grant Program

is sponsored by the

Office of the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost



Cover Sheet
Distributed Learning Course Development Grant Program
2014-2015

Title of Proposed Course:

Course Designator:

Prerequisites:

Type of Course (Check All That Apply):

- New Course
- Existing Traditional Course, Delivery Change to Distributed Learning Format
- Existing Distributed Learning Course, Delivery Change to Improved Format
- Undergraduate Course
- Graduate Course
- Course Required for Majors
- Course Proposed for Carolina Core
- Course Proposed for Back to Carolina
- Course Proposed for Palmetto College

Briefly explain your Planned Delivery Methods:

Semester/Year of Planned First Course Offering: _____

Anticipated Enrollment: First Delivery _____ Annually _____

Principal Instructor Name and Title:

PI Campus, College, School, and/or Department:

PI Phone/Email:

Co-PIs (if any):

Amount of Funding Requested:

Has PI or Co-PI(s) received funding from this program? Y/N If Y, please attach proof of course completion.



Budget Template
Distributed Learning Course Development Grant Program
2014-2015

Senior Personnel (PI, CoPIs). List by Name.			
Name	Salary	Fringe Benefits	Total Amount
Other Personnel (Students, Programmers, etc.) List by Position.			
Position Description	Salary	Fringe Benefits	
Other Costs (Best Estimates)			Amount
Category			
Equipment			
Software			
Materials and Supplies			
Course Content Items			
Copyright Fees			
Travel			
Other (provide detail)			
Total Project Budget			

Budget Justification

Describe the roles of personnel to be supported. Detail other costs to the extent possible at this time. Justify how travel costs (if any) support course development activities. Use additional page if necessary.