
Request for Proposals
CTE 2020-2021 Curriculum Innovation Program
Deadline: December 4, 2019

The future of the university depends on innovating teaching and learning in ways that attract students, create new opportunities for student growth and discovery, and support their success now and in the future. CTE's Curriculum Innovation Program will help KU-Lawrence departments develop and implement such innovations. The goal is for departments to design new learning experiences that are informed by an understanding of their students and the higher education context, and grounded in the literature on teaching and learning. The Curriculum Innovation Program is a two-year program in which department teams will transform a key part of their curriculum, implement the changes, and assess the impact of the innovations.

Interested department members are encouraged, but not required, to attend one of two workshops on developing a Curriculum Innovation Proposal, held at CTE in 135 Budig Hall at 10-11 AM on November 19, and 2-3 PM on November 20.

CIP Program Summary

In CIP, departments will identify two or three courses to be the focus of their work, and a team of faculty will design and implement a plan to innovate teaching and learning in the target courses and to assess the impact of the innovations. Innovations might include realigning learning outcomes and content and/or pedagogies between courses to increase curricular coherence; developing and embedding more inclusive content and practices or real-world learning experiences into courses; more systematically integrating active, team-based, or problem-focused learning into courses; or other implementing other innovations known to foster deep learning and engagement.

Resources for Participating Departments

We anticipate funding at least three departments. Those selected will receive:

- A two-year **\$10,000 grant** for the team to support work on the project (e.g., student assistance, summer stipends, or professional expenses for team members).
- **Consultation, guidance, and support** from CTE throughout the duration of the project and an intellectual community of colleagues from other departments and other universities for idea exchange and problem-solving with others working toward similar goals. CTE will also coordinate collaboration with other relevant units (e.g., Analytics and Institutional Research, CODL, Center for Service Learning, Center for Undergraduate Research, KU Libraries).
- Opportunity to apply for **travel funds** for teams of 3-5 faculty members to travel to another institution to learn about innovations that have been successful elsewhere.

Eligibility

Any KU-Lawrence academic department is eligible to apply. Department teams should be composed of at least three faculty members who will play an active role in the transformation activities, with demonstrated support of the department chair. "Faculty" include multi-term lecturers, teaching specialists, and professors of teaching who have an ongoing role in their departments.

Expectations and Schedule

During the funding period (January 2020–December 2021), the department team will:

- Transform 2-3 key courses (courses that students struggle with, or courses that are at the heart of their program) to improve student learning and retention,
- Assess the impact on student learning and success, and
- Develop a plan for sustaining (or continuously enhancing) the modifications over time.

Below is a general timeline for the primary CIP program activities over the two-year period.



Note: departments may choose to begin implementation during the design/planning phase, and we expect departments to gauge how well their modifications are working throughout implementation.

CIP Project teams are also expected to:

1. Have representatives participate in a working group over the course of the program to provide guidance, knowledge, and opportunities for intellectual exchange and community building.
2. Submit a short progress report (or poster) at the end of each semester until the project is complete (final report due by December 20, 2021).
3. Share their CIP projects at CTE's annual Celebration of Teaching held the afternoon of Stop Day each spring semester, and through a portfolio on CTE's website after completing their assessment of the curriculum modifications (with support from a CTE graduate student fellow).

Selection Criteria

Preference will be given to proposed projects that:

1. Will have a high impact on the teaching and learning culture of a unit. We encourage proposals from units that have not yet substantially engaged in course transformation work.
2. Will promote broad agreement within the department on measurable educational goals (i.e. what students should be able to *do*; what you want them to learn) and mapping those goals to the rest of the curriculum.
3. Involve rigorous evaluation of what students are actually learning, to determine how well they are achieving those goals.
4. Propose changes in materials, curriculum, and/or teaching practices that are likely to help students better achieve the desired goals.
5. Will achieve these goals in a *sustainable* manner; this would include establishing working groups of all faculty members who normally teach the course, developing repositories of shared course materials, and developing a plan to continue (or continuously improve) the modified course methods by all instructors of the target courses.

Application Process

Departments should submit a brief proposal (no longer than five pages, including the budget) and letter of support from the chair by **Wednesday, December 4, 2019** at this link:

<https://cte.ku.edu/curriculum-innovation-apply>

Keeping in mind the four criteria described above, the proposal should include:

1. **Course Information.** What courses are to be modified or developed and why? How do you know these courses need to be improved? Explanations could address analyses of student success and difficulties in the curriculum, opportunities to build on or leverage previous work on course transformation, contributions of the courses to the curriculum (e.g., theme, content or essential skills addressed by the courses).
2. **Transformation Plan.** What sorts of modifications would you like to make to the courses and to students' learning, and how will you determine whether those enhancements are effective? What is your proposed timeline and sequence for transforming the courses?
3. **Team Information.** Who is on the team and what will be their roles in the project? Describe the scale of faculty member participation, how leadership and oversight of the effort will be provided in the department, and how you will establish faculty consensus on educational goals, practices, and assessments.

4. **Sustainability Plan.** What processes/mechanisms will you use to ensure sustainability of the educational improvements across sections and over time?
5. **Prior Support.** Describe any previous support for course or curricular improvements in the last five years (e.g., Department Teaching Grant, Course Transformation Grant, Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow), whether/how the proposed work builds on previous project(s), and why additional support for modifications is needed.
6. **Budget.** Describe how you will use the funds and include a draft budget. Include information about how you would like the funds to be distributed across the two-year program. Funds can be used to provide summer stipends or cover professional expenses for team members or for other forms of support for the work (e.g., hiring hourly student support, purchasing materials, supporting seminars or workshops). The funds may be sufficient to cover classroom teaching for some team members, but such arrangements should be worked out with the team's department administration. Fringe for any salary must be included within the \$10,000 budget.

Timeline for Decisions and Funding

We anticipate notifying applicants of funding decisions by December 18, 2019. Funds will be available to successful applicants in mid-January 2020.

Questions? Contact Andrea Greenhoot (agreenhoot@ku.edu) or Judy Eddy (jeddy@ku.edu).