

Beyond the Classroom Departmental and Unit Grants

The Center for Integrative and Experiential Learning (CIEL) invites proposals from full-time faculty and staff involved in 4-year degree programs at USC Columbia and Palmetto College campuses to build a new program or enhance an existing one that engages students beyond the classroom to contribute to departmental or unit learning outcomes. These projects should have a larger influence than just a course, including a department, curriculum, or unit. Grants will be available for such initiatives as adapting physical spaces, purchasing materials to encourage applied learning, such as technology or collaborative tools, or transportation. Collaboration between departments in academic and student affairs to build a program together is encouraged.

Priority will be given to proposals that target Pell-eligible, transfer, underrepresented minority, male students, and Experience by Design target populations. Additionally, CIEL seeks proposals that propel the goals of the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP), including engaging more students beyond the classroom and encouraging reflection on beyond the classroom engagements.

Grant Details

Grants of up to \$3000 will be provided to selected awardees. Funding can be used for materials, technology, adapting spaces, transportation and more. Who can apply Full-time faculty and staff involved in 4-year degree programs at USC Columbia and Palmetto College campuses.

How to Apply

Applications should include:

- Completed Grant Proposal Cover Sheet
- 2-4 page Project Description
- Budget with Justification
- Brief resume or biographical sketch

Please email applications to Deidra Pompey, Experiential Learning Coordinator for CIEL, dpompey@sc.edu by March 15, 2024.

Criteria for Selection

Grants are competitive. Proposals will be judged using the following criteria:

- Completeness of the application and conformance to grant guidelines.
- Reasonableness of the budget. Note: Up to \$3000 may be requested.
- Potential for the project to increase the opportunity for beyond the classroom experiences for all students, but also particularly for targeted populations of Pell-eligible, Underrepresented Minority, Transfer and Male students; produce results that increase student learning and help make connections across experiences.
- Feasibility of completing the project in the time proposed and with the funds available.
- Potential to sustain the integrative learning experiences beyond the grant period.

Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee consisting of the CIEL Faculty Executive Director, QEP Director, Experiential Learning Coordinator, and the QEP outreach coordinator.

Grant Awardee Requirements

- Participate in a kick-off meeting in Spring 2024 and two cohort meetings from Fall 2024 through Spring 2025. Meetings will assist recipients in project development and design, including the development of assignments aligned with the learning outcomes of the new QEP focused on Engagement and Reflection.
- Implement program enhancements in Spring 2024, Summer 2024, Fall 2024, or Spring 2025.
- Complete a survey on the grant program's effectiveness and the strengths and weaknesses of integrative and experiential learning strategies explored.
- Share grant-related activities and results by providing materials for the CIEL website, Integrative and Experiential Learning repository, presenting at the CTE, or otherwise supporting colleagues interested in learning from the grantee's experience.
- Submit a final report by May 15, 2025, including developed materials (e.g., a course syllabi, curriculum description, or program documents reflecting implementation of program-wide initiatives), faculty/staff assessment of student learning from the experience or response to program changes, and data documenting grant implementation (e.g., number of students participating, artifacts or examples of student work, summarized assessment results). A template describing the specific indicators to be documented as part of the grant will be provided to participants.
- Provide access to student artifacts (e.g., submitted student work) based upon the assignment aligned with the QEP learning outcomes to help support institutional assessment efforts.

Support for Faculty Grantees

- Assistance with curriculum/program design and assessment strategies through CIEL staff.
- Assistance identifying relevant experiences and subsequent activities (such as student reflection) that foster connections.
- Provision of three grantee cohort meetings from Spring 2024– Spring 2025 to provide time to share ideas, plan the project, and receive feedback.
- Networking opportunities with the potential for scholarship and publications.

Project Description

The Project Description should include the following sections:

- *The Curriculum or Program.* Describe the learning outcomes for the targeted course or program. If an existing course/program, describe the instructional approach currently used.
- *Goals and Grant Impact.* Describe the goals of this project. How will this grant enable students to engage beyond the classroom and then reflect on that engagement? What types of within and/or beyond the classroom experiences are you interested in exploring to enhance course content and how will students be encouraged to reflect on their experiences? How will your project involve targeted populations of Pell-eligible,

underrepresented minority, transfer and male students who are normally less involved than other students?

- *Proposed Activities.* Describe the instructional development activities to be supported by the grant. What will be done and how? If you plan to hire people with grant funds, what will they do? Will you collaborate with groups, programs, or offices beyond the classroom, and if so, how? As you explore methods for helping students to reflect on their learning beyond the classroom, what options will you consider (for example, blogs, e-portfolios, reflective assignments)? Describe how the added or enhanced experiences will be integrated into the curriculum or program.
- *Sustainability and Broader Impacts.* How do you intend to continue the program changes past the initial offering? How might you share your experience with other colleagues?

Budget

Allowable budget items include personnel (including summer salary), materials, supplies, transportation, and other items that support the development, implementation and assessment of instructional and program materials and methods.

Proposal Submission

Please email applications to Deidra Pompey, Experiential Learning Coordinator for CIEL, dpompey@sc.edu by March 1, 2024. You may apply for more than one CIEL grant in an academic year, but you cannot receive funding for more than one proposal in one academic year.