



Call for Proposals: McCausland Innovation Fund

In 2013, the McCausland Faculty Excellence Endowment Fund was established as part of a \$10 million endowment from UofSC alumnus Peter McCausland ('71) and his wife Bonnie to support faculty recruitment, retention and development. In addition to supporting the College of Arts and Sciences McCausland Faculty Fellows and Visiting Scholars Programs, this generous gift also provides funding for the new McCausland Innovation Fund.

The new [McCausland Innovation Fund](#) is designed to inspire and support bold, creative, and groundbreaking advances in the College of Arts and Sciences' teaching and research to meet the emerging needs of our students and make the university a model of interdisciplinary, interactive learning.

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

The Innovation Fund will support projects that:

- Contribute to a culture of innovation in the college.
- Advance the college's goal to deliver innovative, inspiring, and effective instruction to students.
- Expand current or offer new opportunities for students to actively participate in teaching, research and beyond-the-classroom experiences.
- Align with college and university academic and strategic priorities.

2021-2022 PROPOSAL TRACKS

For the Spring 2022 proposal round, the Innovation Fund invites proposals for innovative projects or programming in four strategic areas of focus:

I. Community partnership projects

Proposals are invited that foster innovative partnerships with community-based and/or nonprofit organizations who serve South Carolina communities, especially those that support underserved communities.

II. Interdisciplinary teaching and research

Proposals are invited for innovative teaching and classroom projects that combine the research methods, critical frameworks, and intellectual traditions of multiple disciplines in pursuit of new knowledge.

III. Innovative or creative projects focused on enhancing the student experience

Proposals are invited for projects or activities that fall outside the scope of the other program tracks but have the potential to impact the student experience within the college in new and creative ways.

IV. Online Learning Course and Program Development

Proposals will be invited for projects aimed at developing sustainable, high-quality online course and program offerings within the college.

- **Phase 1: Online Course Development:** In this phase, units will be invited to submit courses to be developed or revised for online delivery format using a team model for course development.
- **Phase 2: Online Program Development:** Phase 2 awards will support units who are committed to moving an academic program online. All types and levels of for-credit academic programs in the college (undergraduate, master's, doctoral, graduate or undergraduate certificates, majors, or minors) will be considered.

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Proposal Tracks I – III

Full-time faculty and staff are invited to submit proposals for projects, technology or academic programming in the following four strategic focus areas. Proposals may address a single track or multiple tracks. The application deadline for the initial call is January 31, 2022. **Complete information and the online application form can be found on the [McCausland Innovation Fund website](#).**

Track I: Community Partnership Projects

Proposals are invited that foster partnerships with community-based and/or nonprofit organizations who serve South Carolina communities, especially those that support underserved communities. We seek initiatives that involve students in projects that not only demonstrate the college's genuine commitment to community engagement but expand our students' horizons of what is possible when we both learn from and learn with the broader community.

Examples of possible projects:

- Development of inventive classroom-centered, experiential learning opportunities that involve partnerships with nonprofit or community-based organizations.
- Development of unique internship opportunities with nonprofit or community-based organizations that involve hands-on faculty and community partner mentoring of students.
- Development of interdisciplinary student research projects that combine classroom instruction with applied or field research experiences that partner with organizations led by and/or targeting underserved communities.

Track II: Interdisciplinary Teaching and Research

Proposals are invited for innovative teaching and classroom projects that combine the research methods, critical frameworks, and intellectual traditions of multiple disciplines in pursuit of new knowledge. Proposed projects should make meaningful connections across subject areas that demonstrate to students how different scholarly perspectives and techniques can be used to explore big questions. Priority will be given to initiatives that emphasize the benefits of collaboration and demonstrate the applications of interdisciplinary research for wider audiences.

Examples of possible uses of funds:

- Development of a new interdisciplinary degree that prepares students for burgeoning career paths and areas of post-graduate study.
- Building or redesigning a new course around a team-teaching model that combines the expertise and objectives of two or more faculty to investigate a single issue or set of problems.
- Workshops and symposia that allow students to apply what they are learning to new contexts in creative and unexpected ways.

Track III: Innovative or Creative Projects that Enhance the Student Experience

Proposals are invited for projects or activities that fall outside the scope of the other program tracks but have the potential to impact the student experience within the college in new and innovative ways. The proposed projects may relate to activities in or out of the classroom.

Examples of possible projects:

- Development of new or experimental in-person courses (rather than online or hybrid).
- Creative redesign of a high-impact existing course to incorporate cutting-edge pedagogical approaches or innovative course content.

- Purchase of experimental or unusual instructional equipment, a piece of software or other curricular resource to support a current college course, not supported by lab fees.
- Funding to improve student participation in course-related activities such as field or research trips or course-related travel opportunities such as study abroad.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

- Project proposals may respond to a single track or multiple tracks under Tracks I, II or III. (Please note that Track IV proposals will follow a different deadline and review schedule.)
- All awards will be made on a competitive basis.
- Full-time faculty and staff in any CAS unit (department, school, program, center, or institute) are invited to submit proposals.
 - Projects may be sponsored by a single CAS faculty or staff member, or by a group.
 - Multiple proposals may be submitted by an individual or group if they are for different tracks; however, each individual or group may only receive one award per application cycle.
 - Proposals must be endorsed/approved by the unit chair or director.
- In Tracks I-III, total awards will range from \$10,000 to \$50,000.
 - Funds will be awarded for the 2022-2023 academic year. Multi-year projects of up to three years will be considered.
 - Proposals for projects or equipment with a cost of more than \$50,000 will only be considered if the department or program provides matching funds.
 - Funds may be used for course buyouts, summer salary supplements, and student stipends if the need is clearly justified.
- Courses created through an awarded project must be approved through college and university processes as well as offered and taught at least once within 2 years from the award date.
- Recipients will be required to submit a 3-4 page report at the end of the award period summarizing the project, its accomplishments and challenges, and possible next steps in continuing to advance the project goals.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The following materials should be submitted using the [online form](#) by **January 31, 2022**:

- A project proposal of no more than four pages. The proposal should be in PDF format and include:
 1. a brief description of the proposed project and its goals;
 2. a list of individuals who will contribute and their roles;
 3. a timeline of activities and deliverables; and
 4. a rationale describing how the project will fulfill the fund priorities.
- An itemized budget, including fringe when personnel are involved, with justification detailing how the funds will be spent. Budgets should also list resources sought or acquired from other sources. Approved technology purchases and other supplies are the property of the College of Arts and Sciences.
- A two-page curriculum vitae or resume in PDF format for each project lead and faculty partner.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION

The associate deans will comprise the selection committee, chaired by Dean Samuels. Funds will be awarded based on which proposed projects best meet the overall goals and expectations of the program including impact on the student experience as well as the quality, significance, creativity, and potential scaling of the proposed project.

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Proposal Track IV PHASE 1: ONLINE COURSE DEVELOPMENT

*Proposal Track IV encompasses two phases. Phase 1 supports online course development and Phase 2 will support online program development. Proposals will be invited for projects aimed at developing sustainable, high-quality online course and program offerings within the college. **Complete information and the online application form can be found on the [McCausland Innovation Fund website](#).***

In **Track IV Phase 1**, units will be invited to submit courses to be developed or revised for online delivery format using a team model for course development. This model is designed to support longevity in course offerings and provide a cohort learning community for collaborative faculty teams who will utilize best practices in online course design and pedagogy. Up to 25 courses (of all levels) will be supported in this phase.

The college also recognizes the importance of faculty online teaching expertise. Thus, a portion of the funding will be provided for full-time FTE faculty to participate in professional development from national leaders in online learning, such as the [Online Learning Consortium](#), [Quality Matters](#), [Educause](#), [US Distance Learning Association](#), etc.

Each unit can apply for funding for up to three courses. Chairs/directors should coordinate the information about these courses into a single application for their unit.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

Each course will receive up to \$10,000 in funding support.

- Funds can be used for salary (including fringe), technology, and participation in national professional development.
- Each course must have a FTE faculty lead, but can include non-FTE adjuncts and graduate students on each team.
- Example funding distribution per course:
 - Salary – up to \$7,500 (fringe is included in this amount) for all cohort members
 - Technology – up to \$1,750
 - Professional Development – up to \$750
- To build online teaching expertise within the college, we are encouraging full-time faculty participation in professional development training and workshops from national leaders in online teaching. For instance, funding can be used by faculty to become trained as prestigious Quality Matters Master and Peer Reviewers.

Expectations of Cohort Members

- Participate in proposed cohort course development and learning community activities.
- Develop high-quality online courses (shareable Bb shell, syllabus, reusable artifacts/materials, repository, templates, etc.) and consistently offer the courses online.
- Allow the course to serve as an exemplar for others within CAS.
- Finalize course development and submit APPs proposal by September 30, 2022.
- Upon completion of online teaching professional development, faculty will be asked to provide a list of 4-5 best practices learned that will be shared with colleagues.

Timelines of Activities

Tentative Dates	Activity
December 15, 2021	Call for Proposals launched
January 30, 2022	Units submit proposals
February 18, 2022	Review committee makes recommendations
March 10, 2022	Selected faculty teams notified
April 2022	Teams communicate to discuss roles and allocation of labor
May 2022	Cohort Kick-Off Orientation
May-June, 2022	Meet with instructional designer
May-June, 2022	Develop online course syllabus
May-July 2022	Submit syllabus to APPS for DL-Approval (if needed)
	Develop digital instructional materials and assignment grading criteria/rubrics
June-August, 2022	Meet with ODL: help create, edit, caption lecture videos
By September 30, 2022	Develop content in CAS Blackboard Sandbox
Fall 2022	Modify/Submit APPS proposal and course as needed
June, 2022	Cohort Learning Community Professional Development #1
July 2022	Cohort Learning Community Professional Development #2
September 2022	Cohort Learning Community Professional Development #3
Nov or Dec 2022	Cohort Wrap-up Meeting
Spring 2023	Teach course online

APPLICATION PROCESS

The application is completely [online](#). Information requested includes a brief rationale of why the courses were selected, amount requested per course, and typical enrollment numbers. Applications should also include also potential first time the course would be taught online and list of people who will develop each course.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION

- Up to 25 courses will be supported in this phase.
- All courses submitted will be reviewed and considered individually.
- Courses will be selected based on college and unit needs. Examples include:
 - Courses to complete a major or minor courses online
 - High demand course or courses that create bottlenecks
 - Courses that if offered online would solve classroom space issues
 - Carolina Core demands from other units or colleges
 - Courses that support other colleges' online programs
- Proposals for new course conversions and course revisions of previously developed courses will be considered

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Proposal Track IV PHASE 2: ONLINE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

*Track IV encompasses two phases. Phase 1 supports online course development and Phase 2 will support online program development. Proposals will be invited for projects aimed at developing sustainable, high-quality online course and program offerings within the college. **Complete information and the online application form can be found on the [McCausland Innovation Fund website](#).***

Track IV Phase 2 awards will support units who are committed to moving an academic program online. All types and levels of for-credit academic programs in the college (undergraduate, master's, doctoral, graduate or undergraduate certificates, majors, or minors) will be considered. Program proposals may be for either existing or new programs. Up to 5 programs will be supported in this phase.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

- Funding requests for up to \$25,000 will be supported in this phase
- Funding may be used for summer salary, course releases for the person completing administrative tasks on the project, technology, online course development, professional development, etc.

Expectations

- The expectation is that a unit will move an academic degree program online and submit the required approval forms and documentation to seek approval from Faculty Senate and CHE.
- Administrative tasks to launch the online program should occur within 2022-2023 academic year, knowing that approval processes and development may extend beyond AY2023.
- Units should specify a target launch date for the online program.
- A final report brief detailing progress will be required; tentatively due May 2023.

Phase II Activities (Tentative Dates)

- March 15: Call opens
- May 15: Proposal deadline
- June: Review committee makes recommendations
- June-July: Selected units notified
- August: Online Program Development Kick-Off Orientation
- Fall 2022: Project lead meets with CAS Dean's Office staff to discuss processes and needed support
- Fall-Spring 2023: Work on steps/tasks needed for approvals
- May 2023: Submit project progress report

Planning Worksheet Template

This worksheet is meant to help with planning development and/or moving an academic program online from conception to program launch. The list of steps may not be all inclusive and can be re-organized based on applicant needs.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- The application is completely [online](#).
- The following materials will be required:
 - A project narrative must be submitted outlining which program will be moved online, providing an overview, potential program format, proposal overview narrative, description of potential students, rationale for moving this program online, project activities timeline, and list of faculty who will be involved in this proposal development. This narrative has a 4-page maximum length, using Arial or Calibri font.

- CV or resume of project lead(s)
- Itemized budget with justification statement
- A list of courses with DL-approval status that will be part of this online program, identifying associated faculty (if known at this time).

PROPOSAL EVALUATION

- Proposal Overview Narrative clearly outlines project.
- Project can be developed within specified timeline.
- Program proposal clearly identifies and describes potential students.
- Rationale for moving this program online is well justified and long-term support defined.