

Student Success in the Majors Initiative 2017

Chancellor Office Funding to Support Graduation Initiative 2025

A student's college career is affected by many different variables including, access to resources, time commitments, and previous educational experiences. Curricular complexity can be one significant barrier to student success. The goal of any curricular redesign should be to deliver a curriculum that maintains high standards while also assuring that there are no unintended outcomes that decrease the likelihood that students will be able to graduate in four years as a first-time student or two years as a transfer student.

This initiative seeks to support Colleges in assisting faculty in the redesign of courses or curriculum to improve student success and reduce barriers to graduation. Suggestions for possible projects are listed below, but programs could propose other projects as well. Priority will be given to projects that seek to implement changes to improve student success or student access that is based on findings from assessment of student learning or assessment of graduation or retention rates. Funding should not be requested to study the curriculum to identify a problem (programs should be doing this as part of their annual assessment activity) or to update the content of a course (faculty should be engaged in ongoing update as a matter of standard practice).

Grants of \$5,000 to \$7,000 will be awarded to departments to support faculty in making curricular revisions that will be implemented in 2018-19. The result of the grant should be a proposed curricular change(s) that is approved by the college and submitted to Academic Planning along with a final report summarizing the work done on the project.

Grant proposals, completed using the provided proposal template, will need the College Dean or designee's endorsement and be submitted by **Monday October 9th, 2017**.

Some possible options for projects include, but are not limited to:

1. Redesign of curriculum to streamline the pathway to graduation by
 - Removing or modifying prerequisites for a sequence of courses *or*
 - Streamlining or eliminating concentrations or emphases *or*
 - Reducing the number of units in a program *or*
 - Modifying degree roadmap or sequence of courses to reduce barriers to degree completion
2. Redesign of course(s) to improve student success or increases student access by
 - Implementing new teaching methodologies for major, service or GE courses with high failure rates (defined as 15% or more of students receiving grades of D, F or withdrawing from course) to reduce those rates *or*
 - Implementing new teaching methodologies for high demand major, service or GE courses to be able to serve more students *or*
 - Redesigning service courses collaboratively between programs that use the course and those that offer the course to increase student success or access to the course *or*
 - Introducing new technology or course materials to increase active learning in the course to improve student engagement and success in the course

Redesign efforts that implement evidence-based high impact practices (HIPs) for a given discipline are strongly encouraged.

Student Success in the Majors Proposal Cover Sheet and Proposal Information

Due **October 9th, 2017** to Division of Undergraduate Education and Academic Planning
ADM 477

Program or Department name: _____

Contact person Name and email address: _____

Title of Project: _____

Please address the following 5 items in a 3 to 5 page proposal.

1. State the nature of the curricular change to be addressed. What is it about the curriculum or course that may be hindering student success or access?
2. Describe how this problem was identified. What data and/or student and faculty feedback lead you to believe this is a problem? Has assessment activity, program review or an accrediting body helped you identify the problem?
3. Who will be involved in addressing this problem? How will the work be organized and completed (including a rough timeline)? How will faculty as a whole be notified about and/or engaged in the project?
4. Once the changes have been implemented in 2018-2019, how will you know if they've been successful? Would you expect to see an increased number of graduates, more students retained in the major, more students obtaining a C or better, and/or a reduction in time to degree?
5. Prepare a brief budget request for the project and the name and email address of the budget person in your department or college who should be contacted about the fund transfers. *Funds can be used to pay honoraria for faculty, hospitality for a retreat, release time (at standard replacement rate), or hourly salary for student assistants. The request should indicate the items requested, amounts, and totals. Half of the funded amount will be transferred to the college or department when the grant is approved, and half will be transferred after the final report and any curricular change paperwork has been received by the Academic Planning Office.*

Please submit the proposal to your Department chair and College Dean for endorsement of the project and attach this sheet to the proposal.

Department Chair signature _____

College Dean or designee signature _____

Please contact interim Associate Dean of Academic Planning Jane DeWitt (dewitt@sfsu.edu) with any questions. Proposals should be submitted to the Division of Undergraduate Education and Academic Planning at dueap@sfsu.edu or sent the attention of Jane DeWitt in ADM 447.