Student Success in the Majors Initiative 2018

Chancellor Office Funding to Support Graduation Initiative 2025

Focus on Student Connection to and Retention in the Undergraduate Major

The goal of the student success in the majors initiative is to involve faculty in the design and redesign of courses or curricular paths to deliver a coherent curriculum that can facilitate student success and timely graduation. The focus of the initiative this year is on the retention of first year undergraduate students by the design or redesign of lower division courses in the major. Other curricular projects to improve student success in courses and to reduce barriers to graduation will be considered, but the **priority for 2018 will be given to projects that seek to design or redesign lower division courses in the major to improve student connection to, retention in or success in their chosen major.**

Funding will not be provided 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 in 2018-19 that will be **implemented in 2019-20**. 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 8th, 2018**.

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

1. Increase student connection to, engagement with and retention in the major by
   - Creating or redesigning lower division courses in the major
   - Redesigning lower division major courses to reduce high DFW grades (defined as 15% or more students receiving grades of D +/-, F or WU).
2. Redesign of curriculum to streamline the pathway to graduation by
   - Removing or modifying prerequisites for a sequence of courses *or*
   - Modifying degree roadmap or sequence of courses to reduce barriers to degree completion
3. Redesign of course(s) to improve student success or increase 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

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

Student Success in the Majors Proposal Cover Sheet and Proposal Information

Due **October 8ᵗʰ, 2018** to Division of Undergraduate Education and Academic Planning
Submit to Jane DeWitt, ADM 447, or acadplan@sfsu.edu

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 retention in the major or success in the course?

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 faculty as a whole be notified about and/or engaged in the project? How will the work be organized and completed in 2018-19 to meet the deadline to implement changes in the 2019-20 academic year? Include a rough timeline for the work to be done.

4. Once the changes have been implemented in 2019-20, 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, and release time (at standard replacement rate) in accordance with the guidelines for expenditures of general funds. 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. These funds will be in the form of general funds and all spending restrictions on the use of these funds must be followed. Please work with college budget specialists to spend these funds.*

Please submit the proposal to your Department Chair or Director 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, 5-4151) with any questions.