

Innovations in Pedagogy II: Connection Grants @ Augustana

The Office of Academic Affairs is pleased to announce the opportunity to apply for **Connection Grants** (10-15 total grants) to support the creation or redesign of an individual course or a sequence of courses that will be delivered primarily during the 2013-14 or 2014-15 academic years. New or redesigned courses will feature curricular designs that do one of two things:

- 1. For the humanities and social sciences:** The course will more intentionally connect traditional study in the humanities/social sciences and study in our pre-professional programs. “Humanities and social sciences” here reflects traditional definitions, not our divisional structures, so the arts and economics are also included. Examples of already existing courses that accomplish this include the Religion department’s courses in Medical Ethics and Business Ethics, and the Spanish department’s creation of the new major Spanish for Professional Use. Collaborative grants may be proposed with faculty in pre-professional programs.
- 2. For all disciplines:** The course will more intentionally connect the college and the local Quad Cities community by making some aspect of our location central to the course’s content and learning objectives. An example of an already existing course that accomplishes this is the Environmental Literature and Landscape Learning Community.*

We hope that by encouraging faculty to develop these types of curricula, we can (1) recognize the ways that the skills, knowledge, and dispositions developed in humanities/social sciences courses can enhance our students’ pre-professional pursuits; (2) expose more students and/or different types of students to our excellent faculty across the college; (3) further develop our ties to the local community and introduce our students to the QCA as a learning laboratory; and/or (4) encourage interdisciplinary and interdivisional collaboration between faculty.

Faculty can apply for either (or both) of the two grants listed below. Awards can be paid as stipends and/or can be used for professional development activities related to the grant.

- **A \$1500 Course Redesign or Course Creation Award**

This grant is designed for any faculty member interested in fundamentally redesigning a course or creating a new course that integrates traditional study in the humanities/social sciences with a pre-professional area of interest, or makes our location central to the course’s themes and learning objectives. (“Fundamentally redesigning” means more than adding a component or section of the course.)

- **A \$1000 Course Sequence or New Program Collaboration Award**

This grant is designed for any group of faculty teaching a sequence or group of courses. This grant can be used for either 1) a group of courses that function together as a sequence of courses that already exists in the Augustana catalogue; or 2) a new sequence or group of courses. This grant will be awarded to the group of applicants and be distributed among them as they so choose. This award can apply to learning communities.

* Community connection grants will be eligible for a Learning Community stipend and mini-grant when applicable, but not eligible for a Service Learning stipend.

An independent committee of faculty and administrators who have not submitted applications for these grants will evaluate all grant proposals. The strongest proposals will explicitly address how these courses will serve our students and help students meet the student learning outcomes established in the course, sequence, or program design. For all approved applications, half of the funding will be awarded at the time of selection while the other half will be awarded upon completion of the course delivery and submission of the project summary and assessment.

Grants proposals are due to the Office of Academic Affairs **by November 12th, 2012**. Decisions will be announced by December 14th, 2012. The proposed courses are expected to run during the 2013-14 or 2014-15 academic years.

Proposal Guidelines

All proposals should include:

1. A narrative description that answers the following questions:
 - Which course will be developed from this project? When will the course(s) be offered, and which students will be its target constituency? Please include how often you plan to teach the course(s), and the impact on your department's current offerings.
 - What are your student learning outcomes for the proposed course/sequence? How will your course help students meet these proposed SLOs, and how will you assess their progress?
 - How has your past work prepared you for developing the new course(s)?
2. Proposals for the development of new concentrations will also need to address the staffing implications of the new curriculum.
3. A timetable for planning, implementation, and assessment.
4. A current CV

Project Completion

Funded projects must be completed by the end of the Summer of the 2014-15 academic year with a final project summary detailing activities and assessment submitted to the Academic Affairs office by August 31, 2015. Funded participants will be asked to share their results with colleagues during one or more public forums (Faculty Retreat, Faculty Newsletter, Teaching Circle, Friday Conversation, etc.).