

Call for Proposals
DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES AND STRATEGIES FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF GRADUATE PROGRAMS AND
STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES
Summer/Fall 2009

Introduction

Since January 2009, the Graduate School has been reviewing models of graduate program assessment to identify the components needed to develop a high quality review and assessment of graduate programs at the University of Rhode Island (URI). The Graduate School serves as the academic core of graduate education at URI and is eager to develop and implement a system of program review and assessment that will benefit all of our graduate programs. The system of review and assessment is envisioned to assist programs in documenting their strengths and developing strategies for improvement

The Office of Student Learning, Outcomes Assessment and Accreditation (SLOAA), in concert with the Graduate School's program review efforts, is making available mini-grants in amounts of up to \$1,000 each for support of Summer/Fall 2009 initiatives that will engage program faculty in thoughtful and creative efforts to develop models and methods of assessment aimed at documenting graduate student learning outcomes and graduate program objectives, effectiveness, and quality. Funding is made possible through the support of the Davis Educational Foundation.

Program Eligibility and Funding

Funding is available for initiatives that advance the development of strategies for graduate program review and assessment of student learning. In all cases, proposals should include some focus on assessing student learning outcomes. Funds may be used to support work on *any* aspect of this development process including the following:

- **Development of methods to identify learning outcomes and objectives for your graduate program**
 - What are the specific and measurable academic and professional expectations for your graduate students (e.g., professional development, ability to perform research, ability to teach, service and outreach, other knowledge, skills, and behaviors)?
 - What are the most effective and efficient ways to determine whether these expectations have been met?
- **Development of methods to assess graduate program quality and productivity**
 - What measures could be used in a self-study to best determine program quality?
 - What measures could be used to best showcase the strengths of your graduate program?
 - What measures could be used to identify areas that would benefit significantly from improvement.
 - What measures could be used in a self-study that are already required by national and state accreditation and licensure?

Funds may be used to support faculty time, retreats, workshops, and acquisition of assessment tools and resources.

Procedure

Proposals must include:

1. A completed cover sheet (page 2 of this document).
2. A short narrative (two pages, maximum) describing the needs, planned activities, timeline, and expected accomplishments of the work that is proposed.
3. A list of involved personnel and their roles in the project.
4. An itemized project budget.

Proposals are due to the Office of Student Learning no later than June 1, 2009. Awards will be made by June 15, 2009. Interested departments, offices, and/or faculty members should submit their proposal electronically to: assess@uri.edu. A progress report will be required for all funded projects by January 2010.

Questions

Please contact the Office of Student Learning, Outcomes Assessment and Accreditation:
Bob Shea: 4-5401, bshea@uri.edu, or Elaine Finan: 4-9503, efinan@uri.edu

University of Rhode Island
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Cover Sheet

Name of P.I. _____

Position: _____

Department or Office: _____

Campus Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Co-P.I.s (if any): _____

Proposal Title: _____

Amount Requested: \$ _____

Department Chairperson's signature:

_____ Date: _____

Dean's signature:

_____ Date: _____

Electronic signatures are acceptable.

If you have any questions or need assistance in completing your proposal, please contact the Office of Student Learning, Edwards Hall:

Bob Shea: 4-5401, bshea@uri.edu

Elaine Finan: 4-9503, efinan@uri.edu