Advance Faculty Undergraduate Support Grant

Goal:

The goal of the Advance Faculty Undergraduate Research Support Grant is to reward and support faculty that design or improve courses or programs that increase the number of undergraduate students involved in Advance Student Research Experience (SRE) Pathways of distinction or Advance SRE Pathways of excellence. UL Lafayette defines an SRE as *a sustained effort by a student to apply subject knowledge, skills, and abilities to a project that is valued by the discipline*. Advance SRE pathways track and assess a student's course work, and co-curricular work. The activities included in an ASRE Pathway are designed by the respective departments participating in Advance Student Research Experiences Program. Advance Faculty Grants promote excellence and innovation in the areas of student research, global engagement, creative presentation, or scholarly expression. This grant differs from the former Advance Course Improvement Grants and the Advance Equipment grants by focusing on innovation. **It is the most flexible grant for funding allowances.** *However, funding for direct compensation of faculty has not been competitive in the recent past.* Please note that these funds can pay for faculty expenses that are not covered by other resources (e.g., this funding could be used to pay for faculty training and development). Purchasing of supplies, equipment, and undergraduate student researcher stipends (**hourly wages are discouraged**) are allowed.

One way that this grant can be utilized is to support building Course Embedded Student Research Experiences and Advance Student Research Experience (ASRE) Pathways. In time, these pathways will exist in each undergraduate program. An Advance pathway at the department level is a student research experience (SRE)-supportive curriculum map in which outcomes are vertically aligned and become progressively more challenging. A vertically aligned Advance pathway progresses from 1) introducing knowledge, skills, and abilities in exposure courses; 2) to reinforcing the skills in methods courses; 3) followed by providing students with opportunities to apply the skills in mentored SRE; 4) and then preparing students to publish, present, or perform in dissemination courses. This grant may be used to encourage innovative in any or all these abilities. UL Lafayette also has a specific set of guidelines to use when designing a Course Embedded Student Research Experience (CURE).

- The CURE is embedded into the course curriculum.
- All students in the class engage in the CURE in some fashion.
- Outcomes of the CURE are unknown beforehand.
- Students work collaboratively as much as possible.
- CURE projects introduce students to the professional research methodologies of the discipline.
- Outcomes of the CURE are communicated to a stakeholder that is not the course instructor of record.

Eligibility:

All UL Lafayette faculty members (including instructors) and research active staff (such as research scientists and library staff) are eligible to apply and serve as the principal investigator (PI) for Advance Faculty Undergraduate Research Support Grants. All Advance grant programs require at least one qualified faculty or staff member to be directly engaged in teaching or mentoring one or more undergraduate students. Including graduate students in programs that train the trainers (graduate students working with undergraduate students) is exceptionally competitive.

Application Process:

Thirty of these grants will be awarded in the 24/25 academic year. The awards can each fund up to $5000.00. Students are not eligible to apply. **Applications must be approved by the Department head and Dean of the PI before review of the submission.** Proposals with **both** signatures of approval can be submitted to SCRCS via email (Advance@louisiana.edu). Applications for the 24/25 academic year are due **Tuesday, October 21, 2024**.

Selection Process:

The Student Center for Research, Creativity, and Scholarship (SCRCS) administers the Advance Faculty Undergraduate Research Support Grants. A group of faculty members including LaCOEUR members will review each grant and choose recipients. Priority will be given to proposals that display quality and quantity impact on undergraduates involved in SREs and are innovative in design.

Successful proposals will directly impact undergraduate students through the work described in the proposal. Those students should be engaged in higher-level cognitive activities, such as applying, analyzing, evaluating, or creating, as opposed to lower-level activities such as remembering and understanding. For example, it would be preferable if the students were involved in the design of the experiment, rather than simply being tasked with data collection.

Duration:

Advance Faculty Undergraduate Research Support Grant has a project period of performance that will be from the time of the award through the end of the 2024/2025 fiscal year (June 2025). **Fund expenditures cannot be extended beyond the end of June 2025.**

Use of Funds and Reporting:

Project funds should be used as described in the grant. All standard University purchasing, and approval processes policies apply. PIs must track all expenditures. Overspending of the account will render the PI ineligible for future RFPs, and the PI's department may be required to reimburse the University for the overage. A final report that details project expenditures is required, as described below.

Report and Deliverables -

At the end of the project period, all PIs who are awarded Advance Faculty Undergraduate Research Support Grants are required to submit a brief report describing the expenditures and the results of the project. PIs who do not submit the required final report along with the student's intellectual product within 30 days of the end of the project will not be eligible for consideration in future Advance Program RFPs.

Checklist / Instruction Sheet for PIs:

1. Complete the cover page.
2. Complete the basic information
3. Provide a description (2–3 pages) of your proposal in 12 pt. font, single spaced, address the following:
   a. Purpose of the proposed work/plan/program
   b. Projected impact on undergraduate students completing Student Research Experiences (SREs)
   c. Person(s) responsible for
       i. Implementation
       ii. Installation
       iii. Maintenance
       iv. Operation
       v. Training (with qualifications)
   d. Include any additional information relevant to your application
4. **Complete a Budget**
5. Route the proposal through the Department Chair's office to the Dean's office

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Advance Grant: Faculty Grant

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Title

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Name of Submitter
(Faculty or Staff Only)

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Organization/College/Department

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Department Head Signature

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Dean's Signature

Basic Information page (required)

Date:

Title:

Project Lead (PI):

coPI(s):

Primary Contact:

Email:

Phone:

Department:

College:

Center or Organization:

Budget Proposal

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1. **Equipment/Software** $

2. **Supplies/Furniture** $

3. **Training/Development** $

4. **Other** $

TOTAL: