

## **2013-14 Provost's General Education Course Enhancement Grant Competition**

*Teach what excites you! Connect your discipline and expertise with General Education!*

The General Education Course Enhancement Grant Competition is designed to promote the ongoing enhancement of UConn's General Education curriculum. We seek proposals for innovative revised or new general education courses. All will be considered.

While proposals for any and all well-designed courses will be considered, this year's competition especially encourages the submission of proposals that address one or more of the following General Education priorities:

1. Courses from any discipline that focus on creative or innovative ways to incorporate 21<sup>st</sup> Century work skills and learning skills and Digital Information Literacy (DIL) objectives. While no single definition of these skills exists, sample resources for such skills and objectives can be found here:
  - a. The 4 C's of 21st Century learning skills at:  
<http://blog.entrepreneurhearts.com/2010/05/06/the-four-cs-of-21st-century-education/>
  - b. Library standards and pending revisions at:  
<http://www.ala.org/acrl/standards/informationliteracycompetency> or  
<http://connect.ala.org/node/181197>
  - c. The ISTE NETS-S standards, particularly Standards 4 and 5, at:  
<http://www.iste.org/standards/standards-for-students>
2. Courses that improve or add to the available options for students trying to fulfill their CA3 or Q requirements
3. Innovative W courses in any discipline
4. New or revised Sophomore-level General Education courses in all areas

This year's Provost's General Education Course Enhancement Grant Competition seeks to align itself with a number of projects that GEOC and the University at large plan to undertake. The GEOC is currently assessing and revising the Computer Literacy and Information Literacy requirements for students at UConn and seeks course proposals that can help us redefine a digital age information literacy competency. Moreover, CA3 and Q courses are underrepresented in our offerings of General Education courses, and with the recent approval of the STEM expansion at UConn, courses in these areas will soon be increasingly in demand. GEOC seeks to get a jump start on addressing this potential need. Many departments also lack an adequate number of 2000-level courses to accommodate sophomores seeking General Education credit, and as always, strong W courses across all disciplines are needed to provide students with ample opportunities to develop their writing and online research skills.

Proposals for new courses as well as proposals that enhance existing courses, specifically those intended to meet the challenges of large lecture formats, are both encouraged. Proposals that leverage technology, including classroom and online technologies, in ways that make them more widely accessible (shared among regional campuses for example) also are sought.

GEOC encourages applications for the modification and enhancement of existing courses or development of new courses that focus on the following (overlapping) characteristics:

- Ability to be offered on regional campuses
- W courses that will not be limited to students in the major
- Ability to be offered as large classes
- Creatively address digital information literacy (see links above for reference)
- Expand or improve CA3 or Q offerings
- Sophomore-level availability

**Approvals:** All proposals require department head or program director approval. It should be expressly understood that receiving a Provost's General Education Course Enhancement Grant does not inherently constitute approval of the proposed course for the respective General Education content area(s) and/or competency; successful grant proposals will still have to submit a Curricular Action Request form to the GEOC for approval and must follow the approval sequence outlined below. All courses awarded funding through the competition must still undergo the full university course approval process that may include review by relevant department personnel, college C&CCs, GEOC, Senate C&CC, and Senate:  
<http://geoc.uconn.edu/course-approval-process/>.

**Awards:** Awards are for two years and may vary in amount, from \$1,000 to a maximum of \$10,000 (\$5,000 max. per year) per proposal. The award may be applied to summer salary, course related expenses, or to a faculty member's ledger 2 research account. This amount is inclusive of fringe benefits and a budget form is required to justify proposed expenses.

**Proposal Deadline:** January 17, 2014

**Who May Apply:** Regular tenured, tenure-track, and non-tenure-track faculty from any University of Connecticut campus may apply. This program is open to faculty in all disciplines. An application may be submitted by one or more individuals, but must have the written commitment of support, including teaching assistantships if required, of a sponsoring program or department that expects to offer the course every, or every other, academic year for at least five years at one or more of the UConn campuses.

**Evaluation Criteria:** The proposal may focus on significantly enhancing the content or pedagogy of an existing course or developing a new course (see above). It should very clearly explain how the course meets UConn's broad goals of general education as well as the specific criteria for the given content area(s) (Arts/Humanities; Social Sciences; Sciences; Diversity and Multiculturalism) and/or competencies (W, Q) as described in UConn's General Education Guidelines <http://geoc.uconn.edu/geoc-guidelines/>. Student learning outcomes and ways of assessing them must be outlined. Successful proposals will be expected to serve as a model for future efforts in strengthening UConn's General Education curriculum. In many cases, they may simultaneously strengthen their home department or program.

**Proposal Format and Submission:** Please follow the suggested proposal format, which can also be found at <http://geoc.uconn.edu/course-development-grant-competition/>. The text of the

proposal should be no more than three (3) pages (at least 10 point font, 1 inch margins) and include:

- A clear statement of the project's relation to the general education requirements (broad and specific)
- Its objectives (including student learning outcomes)
- A plan for the assessment of student learning (how will it be measured?) once the course is offered.

Each proposal should include a completed budget form together with a statement of support from the appropriate program director(s) or department head(s). An electronic copy of the proposal should be sent to [GEOC@uconn.edu](mailto:GEOC@uconn.edu) with the Subject Line "Provost's General Education Course Enhancement Grant." Lists of winners and examples of successful proposals from previous competitions can be found at <http://geoc.uconn.edu/course-development-grant-competition/>.

**Evaluation Committee:** Proposals will be reviewed by a committee of faculty and representatives from:

- Applicable GEOC subcommittees
- The Instructional Design and Development Group in the Institute of Teaching and Learning
- A pool of previous competition winners

**Requirements for Awarded Proposals:**

Faculty who receive funding for their proposal will be required to do the following:

1. Attend the awards reception for current winners
2. Submit a Curriculum Action Request (CAR) form and full syllabus for the course approval process
3. Submit a year-one progress report by the specified deadline
4. Attend the year-one proposal workshop
5. Submit a final report by the specified deadline at the end of the second year

**Project Timetable:**

Jan. 17, 2014	Proposal Deadline
Feb. 2014	Awards announced
April GEOC Mtng	Curricular Action Request forms submitted to GEOC for inclusion in the new general education curriculum in time for the 2014/2015 catalog. The project need not be completed at this time.
Feb. 2015	First year progress report due
Apr/May 2015	First year workshop
2014-2015 AY	Course taught
May 2016	Final report due

**Contact:** For further information, contact Michael F. Young (Chair, General Education Oversight Committee) at [michael.f.young@uconn.edu](mailto:michael.f.young@uconn.edu) or the GEOC Administrator at [geoc@uconn.edu](mailto:geoc@uconn.edu) (860) 486-1195.