

Assessment Grants 2009-2010 Academic Year

The Office of Academic Assessment offers several types of funding opportunities to facilitate and promote a climate that supports continuous improvement of student learning across the university. The grants are designed to support faculty with varying levels of experience and comfort with learning outcomes assessment who demonstrate a commitment to the following values and practices:

- Assessment as a collective responsibility of all participants in the academic enterprise.
- Assessment as critical inquiry into matters of vital interest, such as curriculum building, instructional effectiveness, and student development.
- Assessment as a continuous process that is integrated harmoniously into daily academic life.
- Assessment which promotes scholarly understandings of learning and student development.

Types of Grants

Assessment Education Grants

These grants are designed to support faculty in the beginning stages of their assessment work who are interested in attending professional developing (e.g., workshops, conferences) opportunities related to [student learning outcomes assessment](#). These opportunities may include both discipline-specific venues as well as venues geared toward a broader audience (e.g., general education, undergraduate education themed conferences). Teams of faculty are encouraged to apply. Maximum funding for Assessment Education Grant is \$600 per individual, not to exceed \$1800 per team.

Assessment Dissemination Grants

These grants are designed to support faculty already engaged in assessment work to present their findings related to [student learning outcomes](#). These opportunities may include both discipline-specific venues as well as venues geared toward a broader audience (e.g., general education, undergraduate education themed conferences). Please note: applicants must verify IRB approval prior to distribution of funding. For information related to research involving human subjects, please see the IRB website: [://irb.vt.edu](http://irb.vt.edu). Teams of faculty are encouraged to apply. Maximum funding for Assessment Dissemination Grant is \$700 per individual, not to exceed \$2100 per team.

Core Competency Assessment Grants

These grants are designed to facilitate partnering between faculty/programs and the Office of Academic Assessment, and will be organized around the [value-added assessment of the six core competencies](#) required of all public four-year institutions by the State Council of Higher

Invent the Future

Education for Virginia (SCHEV): (1) written communication, (2) technology/information literacy, (3) quantitative reasoning, (4) scientific reasoning, (5) critical thinking, and (6) oral communication. Priority during Academic year 2009-2010 will be given to scientific reasoning. Those interested are encouraged to contact Kate Drezek McConnell, University Academic Assessment Coordinator ([@vt.edu](mailto:kate.drezek@vt.edu)) prior to submitting a proposal. Maximum funding: \$2000 per proposal.

Applying for Grants

Eligibility

The Office of Academic Assessment welcomes grant proposals from all faculty and administrators involved in student learning outcomes assessment, including past grant recipients. That said, priority will be given to proposals from faculty and administrators who were not awarded grants during the 2008-2009 academic year.

Proposal Due Dates

The Office of Academic Assessment accepts applications for grants in the fall semester. The submission deadline for funding is November 20, 2009. Funds will be dispersed on December 18, 2009.

Proposal Content and Format

A project proposal must be submitted by the appropriate deadline (see above) to be considered for funding. Proposals should include all of the sections delineated below and not exceed 5 pages in length. Incomplete proposals will not be considered.

Education Grants

- *Description of Workshop/Conference:* Provide the name, sponsoring organization, URL/website, location, date(s), scope (e.g., international, national, regional, state), and frequency (e.g., annual meeting, one-time workshop, etc.) of the workshop/conference. The description should also reference the component(s) of the workshop/conference that directly relate to student learning outcomes assessment.
- *Goals/Anticipated Learning Outcomes for attendee(s):* Provide general goals and specific anticipated learning outcomes for each individual attending the workshop/conference.
- *Other Sources of Funding/Total Breakout of Estimated Expenses:* The money provided by the grant is intended to supplement other travel funds. As such, the Office of Academic Assessment requires that applicants demonstrate a commitment to attending the workshop/conference by delineating the other source(s) of funding for each anticipated travel-related expense (e.g., conference registration rate, air travel, meals, lodging, car rental, etc.).
- *Biographical Sketches:* Provide a brief, 1-2 paragraph description of all individuals applying for the Dissemination Grant.

Dissemination Grants

- *Description of Workshop/Conference:* Provide the name, sponsoring organization, URL/website, location, date(s), scope (e.g., international, national, regional, state), and frequency (e.g., annual meeting, one-time workshop, etc.) of the workshop/conference. The description should also reference the component(s) of the workshop/conference that directly relate to student learning outcomes assessment.
- *Nature of Attendance:* Indicate the nature and number of the forum(s) from which you will be disseminating the results of your assessment work at the meeting/conference. Examples include but may not be limited to invited paper, paper session, platform or poster presentation. For each paper/presentation, please provide an abstract (250 words or less).
- *Review Process:* Please indicate whether the meeting/conference employed a refereed/peer review process for acceptance of papers and presentations.
- *Goals/Anticipated Learning Outcomes for attendee(s):* Beyond dissemination of your own assessment work, please provide general goals and specific anticipated learning outcomes for each individual attending the workshop/conference.
- *Other Sources of Funding/Total Breakout of Estimated Expenses:* The money provided by the grant is intended to supplement other travel funds. As such, the Office of Academic Assessment requires that applicants demonstrate a commitment to attending the workshop/conference by delineating the other source(s) of funding for each anticipated travel-related expense (e.g., conference registration rate, air travel, meals, lodging, car rental, etc.).
- *Biographical Sketches:* Provide a brief, 1-2 paragraph description of all individuals applying for the Dissemination Grant.
- *Human Subjects Research.* Please attach a copy of your assessment project's Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval letter to the proposal.

Core Competency Grants

- *Project Description:* Provide a brief narrative that contextualizes the proposed project for a reader that may not be familiar with the author's disciplinary or interdisciplinary perspective. This description must be grounded in relevant theoretical and pedagogical scholarship related to assessing one of the six core competencies.
- *Purpose and Significance:* Provide a general statement of the project's purpose and significance, preferably at both the program-level and the institutional-level.
- *Goals and Objectives:* Provide general goals and specific objectives for the proposed project.
- *Student Learning Outcomes:* Articulate specific student learning outcomes that will be assessed, and describe how they relate to and/or operationalize one of the six core competencies.
- *Implementation:* Provide a description of how the project goals and objectives will be met.
- *Assessment and Evaluation:* Provide a detailed description of how the project itself will be assessed and evaluated.

- *Evidence of Scholarship:* Each Core Competency grantee is responsible for creating one “piece” of scholarship related to student learning outcomes assessment (e.g., scholarly article, conference presentation, grant proposal, instructional materials) based upon the proposed project. Provide a description of what type of scholarship is anticipated, including details necessary to assess the nature of the scholarship (e.g., potential journals or funding agencies, method of making assessment resources publicly available).
- *Project Budget:* Provide a detailed project budget for the full amount request from the Office of Academic Assessment, including but not limited to wages, equipment/assessment instruments, consultants, and materials. **Please note that Core Competency Grants will not fund travel.**
- *Biographical Sketches:* Provide a brief, 1-2 paragraph description of all individuals applying for the Dissemination Grant.

Review Criteria for Grants

Proposal Review Criteria

Education Grants

Each submitted completed proposal for Education Grants will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- *Appropriateness of workshop/meeting:* Does the workshop/meeting explicitly address student learning outcomes assessment and hold the promise of furthering grantee(s) knowledge, skills, and abilities related to student learning outcomes assessment?
- *Alignment of goals, anticipated learning outcomes:* Do the stated goals and anticipated learning outcomes align with the description of the workshop/conference?
- *Funding:* Is a commitment to attending the workshop/conference reflected in the availability of other funding sources?

Dissemination Grants

Each submitted completed proposal for Dissemination Grants will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- *Appropriateness of workshop/meeting:* Does the workshop/meeting explicitly address student learning outcomes assessment and hold the promise of furthering grantee(s) knowledge, skills, and abilities related to student learning outcomes assessment?
- *Alignment of nature of attendance, goals, anticipated learning outcomes:* Do the stated goals and anticipated learning outcomes align with the nature of attendance/venue(s) for dissemination of assessment-related work?
- *IRB Approval:* Has IRB approval been secured?
- *Funding:* Is a commitment to attending the workshop/conference reflected in the availability of other funding sources?

Core Competency Grants

Each submitted completed proposal for Core Competency Grants will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- *Significance of the proposed project:* Does the proposed project address a significant need and potentially result in a significant impact related to assessment of one of the six core competencies?
- *Grounding in current theoretical and pedagogical literature:* Is the proposed project grounded in relevant theoretical and pedagogical scholarship related to assessing one of the six core competencies?
- *Potential influence on student learning:* Does the proposal identify specific ways in which the project will directly influence student learning through outcomes assessment?
- *Appropriateness/feasibility of the proposed project:* Does the proposed project represent an appropriate response to the described need and is project completion likely given the available resources?
- *Adequacy of the assessment and evaluation plan:* Does the proposal provide an evaluation plan that is aligned with the proposal's goals and objectives, and that explains how the project's effectiveness will be assessed?
- *Feasibility/appropriateness of the scholarship of student learning outcomes assessment:* Does the proposal identify appropriate and feasible scholarly outlets for the results of the project?
- *Appropriateness/completeness of the projected budget:* Does the project provide a detailed budget that accounts for all of the funds requested?

Proposal Content and Format

A project proposal must be submitted by the appropriate deadline (see above) to be considered for funding. Proposals should include all of the sections delineated below and not exceed 5 pages in length. Incomplete proposals will not be considered.

Final Reports for Grants

Education and Dissemination Grant recipients must submit a one- to two-page report delineating (a) how the workshop/conference attended met – or did not meet – their expectations; (b) what influence the workshop/conference has had on their knowledge, skills, and abilities related to student learning outcomes assessment; and finally (c) how they intend to share what they learned with their program/department. This is due to the Office of Academic Assessment within 2 months of attending the workshop/conference.

Core Competency Grant recipients must submit a three-page report delineating the project's (a) activities, (b) results, and (c) scholarly project to the Office of Academic Assessment no later than one year following the grant proposal due date. For Core Competency Grant recipients in the 2009-2010 academic year, these reports are due no later than November 19, 2010.