USD Internal Assessment Grants

The USD Internal Assessment Grants program supports the development of new and creative assessment, activities, tools and/or advanced assessment research projects. These grants provide unique opportunities to advance the development of assessment research for teaching and learning, a rapidly growing area of scholarship across disciplines in higher education. Assessment research projects can be designed to answer critical questions raised about a single department’s curriculum, or it may focus on the connection of assessment practices in one department with another department, across multiple units on campus, or for the discipline generally. Here are some possible examples:

Undergraduate examples:

- Development of a specific rubric for departmental outcomes; for example, creating a holistic rubric that combines reading comprehension, critical analysis, and writing based on conceptions of these competencies from a disciplinary perspective or from the research on core curricula.
- Working with multiple departments to develop shared rubrics and/or other assessment resources conducive to evaluating interdisciplinary student work.
- Creation of levels of learning for a program-level rubric that will help the department to distinguish learning at lower-division and upper-division levels by considering how such distinctions are understood within the discipline.
- Development of outcomes and curricular map of courses for a new major or minor (with program-level support).
- Comparison of outcome analysis with students’ perceptions of outcome achievement from a departmental senior survey or other indirect measure.
- Comparison of systematic differences in effects using various pedagogical approaches.
- Comparison of objective measure (such as a Major Field Test) of a competency triangulated with departmental assessment of same competency (e.g., critical thinking test scores with rubric-evaluated essays employing critical thinking).
- Pilot of a portfolio project.

Graduate Examples:

- Triangulate at least two direct measures (e.g. rubric and exam) of a program-level outcome with an indirect measure (e.g., survey of students’ perceptions of outcome achievement) for a richer analysis.
- Work across programs for assessment of an interdisciplinary thesis.
- Conduct follow-up assessment of targeted community-partners and/or employers on effectiveness of program curriculum.
- Conduct a meta-analysis of progress-to-degree for one program by direct assessment of targeted learning outcomes and student support (e.g., mentoring, financial aid, etc.).
- Assess student teaching by evaluating pedagogical practices and student engagement levels.
CALL FOR FIRST PROPOSALS IS NOW OPEN

The grant funding is for a limited number of programs during the spring and summer, 2015.

**Purpose:** The purpose of these grants is to support faculty work in assessment of student learning outcomes within undergraduate and graduate academic programs.

**Award:** A total of 4 grants at $1000.00 maximum for each grant will be awarded.

**Use of Funds:** Funds must be used toward researchable questions regarding assessment of student learning within an academic program. Examples of likely candidates appear above. Funding is granted when assessment project summaries of results have been submitted.

**Eligibility:** Stipends will be awarded to continuing full-time tenured/tenure-track and adjunct faculty. Applicants must request an approval letter from their department chairs. Priority will be given to first time applicants.

**Exclusions:** Funds may not be used for assessment work that is being funded by other sources. Awards cannot be used to fund travel to conferences for presentations about the assessment projects. However, travel awards ARE available through the Center for Educational Excellence and in some of the academic units.

**Grant Applications:** All applications should include the following:

1. Academic Department and Program.
2. Name(s) of faculty member(s) responsible for the proposed assessment work.
3. Description of project, including action steps, timeline for completion, and an explanation of why this work must be completed in the summer months.
4. Statement of how the proposed assessment work fits into the program’s overall assessment plan.
5. Budget for project presented as a list of planned expenditures (materials, conference attendance, stipends, etc.).
6. How success of the proposed project will be determined.
7. Statement of support from the department chair that indicates how the proposed project fits into the ongoing assessment work of the department.

**Application Deadlines:** Applications will be accepted on a continuing basis until January 12, 2015, or until funds are expended. All grants will be reviewed by January 30th and awarded by February 2nd, 2015.

**Grant Summary:** Faculty awarded a grant will submit a grant summary by September 30, 2015 to Carole Huston, Associate Provost, at huston@sandiego.edu. The grant summary must include:

- A summary of completed activities; the summary should include:
  - Explanation of overall analysis, including outcomes, assignments, measures/instruments, sampling, project design, reliability and validity assessments, analysis and results. A reflection on the success of the project and the contribution to program’s assessment plan.
  - Recommended actions for the program assessment plan.
**Review Procedures:** Submit applications via email to Carole Huston, Associate Provost, at huston@sandiego.edu. The University Assessment Committee will review all applications. The project evaluation rubric can be found on the grant website: [http://www.sandiego.edu/provost/resources/funding.php](http://www.sandiego.edu/provost/resources/funding.php)

**Disbursement of Grant Funds:** Funds awarded for the purchase of goods and materials will be disbursed upon submission of receipts, or the goods and materials will be purchased for you upon request. Stipends will be disbursed upon submission of the grant summary.

If you should have questions about the program, or need assistance in completing your grant application, please contact Carole Huston, Associate Provost, at huston@sandiego.edu, ext.4553.