Call for Proposals: Digital/Online Projects and MOOCs for 2015-2016

To support innovative teaching and learning practices, Provost Dan Linzer and the Faculty Distance Learning Workgroup (FDLW) request proposals from Northwestern faculty for digital/online projects and massive open online courses (MOOCs). Proposed projects should enhance Northwestern students’ learning through the innovative use of technologies, enable faculty and the University to experiment with innovative teaching and learning technologies, showcase Northwestern faculty’s excellence in teaching, and/or increase Northwestern’s visibility in digital and online teaching and learning environments. Examples of digital/online projects or MOOCs that would be within the intended scope of this call for proposals include:

- Courses that allow faculty and the University to experiment with innovative technologies and pedagogies, contribute to research about teaching and learning, and/or explore the use of learning analytics.

- Blended or flipped courses or online course modules that allow students flexibility in reviewing material before the start of a course, provide students with more flexible scheduling options, and/or allow more time for in-class problem solving and discussion.

- Custom mobile apps specifically designed to integrate into course activities, e.g., field study recording and annotation tools, specialized calculations for science or business, or specialized team communication tools that integrate into the new Canvas educational platform.

- Digital projects or environments that open up new venues for students to engage in research or interact with communities of learners and scholars, such as subject matter experts from outside Northwestern, noted alumni with expertise in their fields, and students from schools across the world.

- MOOCs or other courses that reflect Northwestern as a world-class university and showcase what is special about it, and/or deliver meaningful learning opportunities to non-traditional students, current students and alumni, and/or students who currently have limited access to higher education.

- Moreover, digital learning projects beyond the scope of these examples that add to the breadth and depth of education at Northwestern, that have innovative use of technology, and solid pedagogy, are enthusiastically encouraged.

The above list of examples is not meant to be limiting. We welcome any proposals that utilize innovative and creative use of technology to enhance current or incoming Northwestern students’ learning. Proposals must demonstrate positive impact on student learning and engagement and should include learning objectives and plans for aligned assessments. Please fill out the attached proposal form. All proposals must have endorsement from the dean and department chair.
Faculty interested in submitting a digital/online project or MOOC proposal are invited to contact Marianna Kepka, Assistant Provost for Academic Administration, (onlinelearning@northwestern.edu) for further advice and direction before submitting a proposal. Faculty may view existing Northwestern MOOCs at https://www.coursera.org/northwestern. Once a proposal is accepted, faculty requesting funding for the development of online materials such as video production will be required to work with an internal project support team to develop a budget for this aspect of the project. Proposals may include a stipend of up to $5,000 for each faculty member devoting a significant amount of effort to the project.

Proposals must be submitted by January 19, 2016 to onlinelearning@northwestern.edu. The FDLW and the Office of the Provost will review the proposals and make recommendations to the Provost. The proposals selected for funding will be announced by mid-February and funds will become available for those projects at the beginning of spring quarter 2016. Work on projects should commence no later than the beginning of fall quarter 2016 and be complete no later than the end of spring quarter 2017.
2015-2016 Digital/Online Projects and MOOCs Proposal Form

Faculty Information

Name:
Position:
School:
Department:
Email:
Phone:
(If the project is being submitted by multiple faculty or includes co-instructors, please provide the above information for every submitter.)

Project/Course Information

Project/Course title:

Project/Course timeline and rationale for the length:

Intended start date (approximate):

Please provide a clear and complete explanation of the project/course:

Please describe how the project/course will advance learning and how students will benefit from it:

Please describe the steps required to implement and sustain delivery of the project/course:

Please provide a statement of learning objectives for students and plans to develop aligned assessments. (For more information see: Assessment of Student Learning):

Does the proposed project/course duplicate or build upon existing resources? Is there any other context that would be helpful to provide for this project?

What is the provisional, estimated budget for this project/course? What amount of funding do you expect to request from the Office of the Provost as part of this proposal? (Funding is expected to range from $5,000 for modest proposals to $50,000 for extensive proposals that may include multiple instructors or cross units or schools.) For advice and direction on developing a provisional budget and outlining scope of work, please contact Marianna Kepka, Assistant Provost for Academic Administration, (onlinelearning@northwestern.edu).

Will you be requesting funding from other sources (e.g. department, school)?
Department Chair and Dean’s Office Approval

Dean:
Department Chair:
Please include confirmation of the chair’s approval and letter of support from the Dean of the relevant school(s) expressing support for the project and explaining how the project will contribute to the School’s teaching goals and mission.

Additional Information

Please provide any other additional information that you would like the reviewers to consider in evaluating your proposal.

Additional Questions for MOOC Proposals Only
Please see MOOC Creation Guidelines for more information on how to develop and deliver a MOOC.

If proposing a MOOC, have you taught this course before? [ ] Yes [ ] No
If yes, please attach the most recent syllabus.

How will your MOOC benefit your school and the University?

How would this course showcase an area of strategic priority for the University to a broad audience?

In what ways might this MOOC be effective in reaching and recruiting potential students for undergraduate or graduate programs at Northwestern?

Would you be willing to speak in person to MOOC participants or interested alumni, for example, either locally or around the country/world?

Please describe the potential audience that you envision for this course. Who might be interested (global audiences, alumni, lifelong learners, etc.) and how would it be valuable for them?