

Next Generation Learning Initiative

Curriculum Innovation (CI) fund

Call for Proposals 2013-2014

Introduction

The Academic Plan 2012-2016 articulates a clear commitment to innovative academic programs and engaging student learning experiences. The Curriculum Innovation fund provides dedicated resources for pursuing this commitment. The broad objectives of the initiative are to facilitate the creation of next-generation learning experiences for Concordia students, and to ensure that Concordia programs are compelling options for talented students from Québec, Canada and beyond.

This initiative comprises funds for course and program transformation. Resources for curriculum innovation are especially important when finances are constrained and there is less room in budgets for important course and curriculum development work.

This initiative is a joint effort of the Office of the Provost and the School of Graduate Studies.

Opportunities

Course transformation

CI funding for course transformation is designed to facilitate transformational revisions to credit courses that are already listed in the undergraduate and graduate calendars. “Transformational revisions” involves substantial changes to pedagogy without altering the learning outcomes of the course. The funds provide incentives for faculty to dramatically increase the scope and depth of the work they regularly undertake to improve their courses and teaching methods.

\$100,000 will be available for 2013/14; awards will be granted up to a maximum of \$10,000.

A limited number of funds will be available to support new courses which are designed to be completely transformative, in that they challenge teaching methodologies and learning outcomes. These courses would present course material relevant to a particular program with attendant teaching methodologies which are not yet practiced at Concordia University.

Details

- Proposals need to be approved by department chairs and/or according to faculty guidelines through a letter of support attached to the submitted proposal.
 - CI funds may be used for transformation of graduate or undergraduate courses.
 - CI proposals are welcome from all faculty members and team applications are highly encouraged. It is possible for faculty in a single program to receive multiple CI grants for work on a sequence or other bundle of program courses.
 - CI resources may be used to cover a range of costs including additional TAs, RA assistance, production assistance, procuring course materials, etc. For online course development, these funds are in addition to the remission offered for online course development.
 - Every attempt will be made to accommodate new or altered space requirements associated with CI proposals.
 - Departments with faculty receiving funding for a CI will be given priority consideration for a Program transformation grant when the latter builds on the CI project.
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- Recipients of CI resources may be asked to participate in communications efforts about their course projects and/or to guide future applicants to the program.

Program transformation

CI funding for program transformation is intended to facilitate substantial, innovative revisions to program curricula and program design, or aid in new program development. While ongoing program development is embedded in the regular workload expectations of full-time faculty, program transformation resources are intended to accelerate the research, planning, and development processes.

\$75,000 will be available for 2013/2014.

Details

- CI proposals are to be submitted by department chairs with the approval of department curriculum committees.
- CI funds may be used for transformation of graduate or undergraduate programs.
- Because curriculum transformations occur over extended periods, multi-year funding commitments may be available upon renewed application. Funds may be requested for in-progress curriculum work.
- Funds may be used for a range of costs including faculty stipends (\$10,000 total maximum, \$5,000 maximum per individual stipend), research assistants, consultative visits from faculty at other institutions, conference attendance of program faculty, or expenses related to hosting a retreat for program faculty, etc.
- Departments receiving CI resources will be given priority consideration for a course transformation fund when the latter builds on or is integrated into the CI project.
- Recipients of CI funding may be asked to participate in communications efforts about their course projects and/or to guide future applicants to the program.

Criteria

The criteria elaborated below will be used to guide assessments of proposals.

General

- Transformative potential for the student learning experience
- Substantive changes to course or program pedagogy
- Longer-term sustainability of the experimental pedagogy or new curriculum model
- Justifiable budget given the nature and scope of the proposal

Course transformation

- A clear understanding of the transformative effect of the proposed pedagogy
- An actionable plan for evaluating the effectiveness of the proposed activities
- A clear articulation of the role of online, blended or experiential learning in the proposed course
- Evidence of preliminary thinking about the impact on and integration into program curriculum

Program transformation

- Presence of action plan with clear responsibilities, assignments, milestones, and timelines
 - Potential for the proposed/renewed program to actively improve student outcomes
 - Clear articulation in the program of the overall contribution of online learning, blended learning, or experiential learning
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Proposal Review Committee

The Proposal Review Committee will be chaired by the Vice-Provost, Teaching and Learning, and will include:

- Representative from the Centre for Teaching and Learning Services
- Representative from the School of Graduate Studies
- At least one full-time faculty member with curriculum expertise from the Faculty in which the course/program resides
- One full-time undergraduate student
- One full-time graduate student

Application process

Deadline: March 17, 2014

Proposal templates are available at <http://www.concordia.ca/about/administration-governance/academic/teaching-learning/curriculum.html>.

Completed proposals should be sent to Émilie Martel, Special Projects Coordinator, Office of Provost (emilie.martel@concordia.ca).

Assistance

Every effort will be made to assist applicants in a comprehensive way. The following offices or individuals are available to help with everything from the brainstorming of projects, implementation, and follow-up assessments. Those individuals who are contemplating submitting proposals are encouraged to contact one of the following for pre-proposal assistance:

- Centre for Teaching and Learning Services for assistance with instructional design and evaluation planning, as well as with identifying research and teaching assistants
- The academic programs team at the School of Graduate Studies for curriculum design for graduate courses and programs in particular
- Associate Deans, Curriculum

In keeping with priorities articulated in the Academic Plan, additional assistance is being organized for faculty undertaking course or curriculum development that involves—

- Integrated development of online and blended courses or course components
- New approaches to teaching core academic skills (writing, math, research) and/or integrating professional skill development into courses and programs
- Experiential learning and integrated professional skills development
- Interdisciplinary course and program offerings
- Sustainability

The assistance around sustainability is being organized by the Sustainability Action Pilot Project, a project being co-led by faculty and students interested in deeper integration of sustainability education into program curricula. The group's curriculum work is being coordinated with the Curriculum Innovation Initiative.
