

Programs of the Future: Request for Proposals

UMA 2016 – 2020 Strategic Plan (rev. 2017), Actions Supporting Key Strategies:

2.3 Pilot Academic Programs of the Future to align and enrich the learning experience for distance and on-site students through pedagogical design, technological platform, structured interventions, and assessment of learning outcomes, and provide faculty with incentives and support for pilot participation

UMA's Programs of the Future initiative arises from our Vision 2.0 work in the fall of 2017. The intent is to align and enrich the learning experience for distance and on-site students through pedagogical design, technological platform, structured interventions, and assessment of learning outcomes; and provide faculty with incentives and support for pilot participation.

The university is interested in piloting two academic programs that will develop an integrated and assessable curriculum that will focus on increasing student engagement and improving their academic success for students across the State of Maine. To this end, we are requesting that academic programs (or pathways) who are interested in working to integrate, assess and invigorate their curriculum to provide students a seamless path to success at UMA submit a proposal to become a pilot for this initiative.

Successful pilot programs will work closely with instructional designers to develop new opportunities for student engagement, ensure that the program curriculum is ADA compliant, and to cultivate new modes of student interaction across modalities.

Interested academic programs should submit a two to three page narrative of the work they intend to do over the summer and in the academic year 2018-2019 to develop and improve their programs according to the following criteria. Programs should also submit a faculty signature sheet indicating faculty willingness to participate face to face in this initiative. Programs who successfully compete to be a pilot will receive

- 1) Funding for stipends and for professional development (see budget section of proposal)
- 2) Part time AA support
- 3) Two instructional designers assigned to support the program in their work over the summer and during the 2018-2019 academic year.

Criteria for evaluation of RFPs

Programs will be selected using the following criteria. Please describe how you plan to address these criteria in your narrative.

Required

- 1) Potential for a significant increase in enrollments.
- 2) Assessment plan.

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- 3) Development of new civic engagement/ service learning/ or experiential learning opportunities for students.
- 4) Flexible delivery of the program.
- 5) Increase in student engagement, including engagement between students and faculty, students and students and students with the curriculum.
- 6) Development of structured interventions within the program to support student success.

Preferred

- 1) Use of a variety of modalities (including live, online, videoconference and delayed viewing).
- 2) Inclusion of adjuncts in the planning and development of the programs (stipends will be available to compensate adjunct faculty for their time).
- 3) Description of differentiation of the program or uniqueness of the program within the University of Maine System.
- 4) Inclusion of general education faculty to ensure that general education courses offered to students in the program are consistent in content and design with program based courses.
- 5) Incorporation of First Year Experience initiatives into the redeveloped program.
- 6) Inclusion of international perspectives, student research and creative activity.

Timeline

Proposals are due on February 28, 2018 by close of business to the Office of the Provost. Proposals will be reviewed by the academic administration with notification of the pilot programs to occur by March 15. Preparation work will begin over the summer of 2018 (with summer stipends available for faculty who participate) and continue during the 2018-2019 academic year. The new curriculum and delivery modes will be made available to students starting in the fall of 2019.

Criteria for Success of the Pilot

By the end of the academic year of 2019, pilot programs should deliver to the provost's office a narrative account of the work that has been done and the initial assessment findings. This narrative should include a discussion of the following items.

- 1) Significant course and program redesign work completed, including technologies used for distance delivery and student interactions.
- 2) Alignment of program outcomes within the curriculum and an assessment plan for these outcomes. Initial assessment results would also be welcome.
- 3) General education alignment and delivery that matches the program courses.

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- 4) Planned structured interventions at different times during a student's progression through the program.
- 5) Updates made to the service learning/ civic engagement/ or experiential learning offerings of the program.
- 6) Discussion of the enhanced modalities of delivery of the curriculum
- 7) Discussion of the ways in which the program is informing all faculty, including adjuncts, of the pedagogical expectations from this redesign of the curriculum.
- 8) Inclusion of First Year Experience initiatives.
- 9) Discussion of improvements made in the areas of internationalization of the curriculum and inclusion of student research and/or creative activity.
- 10) Proposals to share this work to other faculty and programs within UMA.