The Educational Innovations Seed Funding program is a new competitive internal funding program designed to inspire and facilitate faculty investment in innovative approaches to undergraduate education and learning within the College of Natural Sciences. Funding will be awarded in May 2014. Implementation of proposed programs or courses is expected to occur in the academic year following the start of the award – that is, in 2014-2015 – unless otherwise agreed. Seed funding projects are intended to be pilot efforts that enhance the competitiveness of external grant proposals.

Eligibility Guidelines

• Faculty, individually or in teams, from all departments within the College of Natural Sciences are eligible to apply.

Award Information

• Proposals may be made for any amount up to $50,000. It is expected that one-three awards will be made in 2014.

What Will Educational Innovation Seed Funding Pay For?

Educational Innovation seed funding is meant to support the creation of course materials and execution of pilot efforts to enhance competitiveness of applications to external agencies for funding to support longer-term or larger-scale educational innovation projects.

ALLOWED Expenses:

• Faculty salary (summer or supplement)
• Materials/supplies/consumables
• Wages for students and support staff
• Duplicating, publications, conference participation

UNALLOWED Expenses:

• Support for teaching relief
• Administrative or secretarial support

Application Instructions and Guidelines

Submit the following items to Lynda Gonzales, lyndag@austin.utexas.edu, ATTN: EI Seed Funding Proposals, College of Natural Sciences G2550, PAI 3.04, no later than February 3, 2014.
Proposal Format

- The completed **Educational Innovation Seed Funding Proposal** form
- A **Proposal Narrative** not to exceed 3 pages including:
  - A statement of need, including students to be served and educational objectives
  - A detailed description of the scope of work including any course(s) you propose to undertake during the funding year
  - A discussion of established best practices and current literature as it relates to your proposal
  - A discussion of goals and an assessment plan
  - A discussion of appropriate external funding programs applicable to the proposed activities (for example (NSF Transforming Undergraduate Education in the Sciences TUES, HHMI Professor’s Program, etc.)

Proposal Attachments

- A brief **Letter from the Department Chair** supporting the proposal.
- A seed funding **Budget and Justification** showing categories for expenditures. Other resources that will be committed to the effort, such as support from academic units, should also be outlined.
- Applicant’s **Curriculum Vitae**.

Schedule

Request for Proposals Released               October 15, 2013
Proposals due                               February 3, 2014
Award Notification                          March 1, 2014
Implementation Report Submitted             November 1, 2014
Final Report Submitted                     May 31, 2015

Application Review Process and Evaluation Criteria

Educational Innovation seed funding applications will be reviewed by faculty committee in the Dean’s office in the College of Natural Sciences. The award will be announced in March and funds disbursed in May 2014.

Evaluation criteria include:

- Identification of an area of need within the curriculum, either for majors or non-majors.
- Quality of the plan to integrate best practices, research on teaching and learning, and the strengths of the institution or the PI’s research program into the proposed course(s).
• Strength of student, departmental, college, and institutional impact objectives especially with regard to the educational experiences of students.
• Evidence that seed funding will enable the PI to overcome barriers currently prohibiting them from implementing an innovative approach to teaching.
• The project’s potential to enhance the PI’s competitiveness in securing external funding

What’s Required of Me After I Receive Seed Funding Support?
In addition to submitting a proposal for external funding, you must submit the following information to Lynda Gonzales:
• November 1, 2014 Implementation Report: A one- to two-page report including (i) a description of the course(s) developed and (ii) explanation of the implementation timeline. If progress has been hindered in one or both of these areas, a clear explanation for the delay is required.
• May 31, 2015 Final Report: A one- to two-page final report including (i) assessment outcomes from implementation and (ii) progress toward securing external funding. Include a list of any other key outcomes of seed funding (e.g., manuscripts published or submitted; websites or other deliverables developed).

Contact Information
Lynda Gonzales
lyndag@austin.utexas.edu
ATTN: E.I. Seed Funding Proposals
College of Natural Sciences
120 Inner Campus Dr. G2550
PAI 3.04

*Educational Innovations Seed Funding grants are supported by the College of Natural Sciences Foundation Advisory Council.*
Proposal Form

Proposal Title: 

Total Amount Requested: 

Lead Faculty Information:

Name: __ Title: __ Dept.: __
UTEID: __ E-mail: __ Campus Mail Code: __

Additional Faculty Involved: __

Proposal Checklist:

☐ Proposal Narrative
☐ Letter of Support from Chair
☐ Budget and Justification
☐ Applicant’s CV