Innovative Course Redesign Grants:
Improving Learner Success

Request for Proposals
Due: October 25, 2024

This Request for Proposals (RFP) supports PLAN 2028's goal (see Activity 1.22) of improving EIU's retention and graduation rates for all learners. Specifically, this proposal aims to promote course redesign to assist and recognize an individual faculty member who seeks to address high D, W, and F rates in an identified course or courses within their department. Faculty members are invited to submit a 1-page redesign proposal to the Faculty Development and Innovation Center (FDIC) that outlines how sections of the identified course will be redesigned and implemented in Fall 2025 and/or Spring 2026. The redesign should focus on implementing innovative and revised pedagogies that promote student success.

Eligibility Criteria:
Eligible faculty and proposals must meet the following criteria:

- Unit A or Full-Time Unit B Faculty
- Target 1000 or 2000 level course(s) in either the major or general education curriculum or a 3000-level general education course
- Identified course(s) with two or more sections each fall and/or spring semester enrolling a combined minimum of 50 students across all course sections
- The proposal may be applied to a combination of eligible courses, if appropriate
- Description of obstacles to student success in the identified course
- Formulation of innovative strategies to address these obstacles

Grants will be awarded to faculty members who identify eligible courses for redesign. To support this critical work, selected faculty will receive:

- Up to $3,000 in collaborative redesign grants in Fall 2024
- Direct consultation and support from the FDIC

Innovation Redesign Grants may be used for professional development opportunities, course materials, and other activities related to the redesign of the identified course(s). Eligible expenditures include:

- Resources for pedagogical development
- Conference attendance for professional growth focused on pedagogy, instructional design, or course development
- Tools and ancillary materials for use in the course(s)
- Instructional materials
- Technology directly related to the course

Grants cannot be used to fund temporary staff, graduate assistantships or stipends. Faculty receiving grants will collaborate with the FDIC Director to ensure proper expenditure of funds.

Faculty members will have access to the FDIC Instructional Designer, Kim Ervin, and Director, Dr. Michael Gillespie, for tailored consultation to assist in redesign efforts. This consultation, if desired, will include an assessment of the current course design, a workshop on the backward course design process, and ongoing support from the FDIC Team. Combining content expertise from the department with instructional design principles will enable effective teaching strategies that align with the discipline's best pedagogical practices.

All planning and redesign must be completed by the end of the Spring 2025 semester and all expenditures must be made by June 30, 2025.

Content of the 1-Page Proposal:
Each proposal should address the perceived course challenges contributing to high D, W, and F rates and how these factors will be addressed in the redesigned course. These factors may include, but are not limited to:
- types and frequency of assessments,
- frequency of interaction with course instructor(s),
- form or modality of instruction,
- revisions or updates to current course content,
- underutilized and unoptimized use of technology,
- course-specific advising practices and tutoring,
- student-to-student engagement within the class, and
- potential misalignment of learning objectives with learning activities.

Proposals should include:
1. Department Name
2. Course Name and Number
3. Department Chair
4. Faculty Name
5. Identification of at least three and no more than five changes in the design and/or structure of the course that may impact the high D, W, and F rates.
6. Reference to the D, W, and F rates for the course(s). Please note, office administrators can access course grades for applicants through Argos. If there are difficulties, please contact fdic_help@eiu.edu for support.
7. A budget detail outlining how the grant funds will be spent and how they connect to the course redesign
8. Proposed timeline for Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 through which the course(s) will be redesigned

Evaluation Criteria:
Proposals will be evaluated by a committee including the Director of the FDIC, a representative from the Council of Chairs, a representative from the Dean of Student Success, as well as input from the Council on Academic Affairs as needed. This team will evaluate submissions based on:
- Identification of perceived course challenges and proposed redesigns

- Realistic timeline for redesign and implementation
- Effective utilization of grant funds and collaboration with the FDIC
- Course mean DWF rates (Fall 2021, Fall 2022, and Fall 2023)
- Course mean enrollment (Fall 2021, Fall 2022, and Fall 2023)

For questions or assistance in developing a proposal for course redesign, please contact Dr. Ryan Hendrickson, Provost (rchendrickson@eiu.edu), or Dr. Michael Gillespie, Director of the FDIC (mgillespie@eiu.edu).

Proposals must be submitted via email to fdic@eiu.edu by 5 p.m. on Friday, October 25, 2024.