## Faculty Application for LA-Supported Courses

Summer 2016/Fall 2016

The College of Arts & Sciences is pleased to offer this Faculty Application for Learning Assistants (LAs). Learning Assistants are talented undergraduates that assist the implementation of evidence-based active learning in STEM courses in order to improve student learning. The Provost's LA Initiative provides strategic funding to increase the use of LAs to support adoption of evidence-based instructional practices on campus and improve student success. The STEM Transformation Institute has been charged with administrative operations of the Initiative.

Please fill out one application for each course that is requesting LAs. Please don't combine requests for different semesters. While each application can represent one instructor, instructor teams are encouraged to apply.

Due to increased demand and efforts to maintain quality experiences for students, LAs and faculty in supported courses, we anticipate that not all requests will be funded this semester. Thus, we encourage thoughtful research-based applications that will also provide evidence for expanding the Initiative.

Review of Faculty Applications will begin on March 4th, 2016 with notifications by April 5th, 2016. Applications submitted after March 4th, 2016 will be considered subject to availability of funds. The call for Spring 2017 Faculty Applications for LAs will occur in October 2016.

* Required

(Last update: 2/8/16)

## Faculty Application for LA-Supported Courses

### Part A: Course/ Instructor/ Department Information

1. Are you applying for a summer or fall course?

◯ Summer

◯ Fall

\* 2. Your Last Name:

\* 3. Your First Name:

\* 4. Your FIU Email:

\* 5. Your Role:
*Course Instructor, Dept Head, Etc:*

\* 6. Course Department:

\* 7. Course Prefix and Number:

\* 8. Course Title:

9. Course Instructor(if different):

＊ 10. Expected Course Enrollment (e.g. 150)

*An approximation is fine. Numeric answer only.*

＊ 11. Total Number of LAs to be used in course (A typical ratio in large classroom is 1 LA to 25-40 students, LA course team should employ cadres of 2 or more LAs to form a supportive community.)

*(e.g. 8); numeric answer only*
*Regardless of funding:*

＊ 12. Number of LAs requested to be funded by LA Program (Critical Investment Awards)

*(e.g. 2); numeric answer only*
*For this specific course*

＊ 13. Number of LAs matched by your department (or other) funds for this specific course

*(e.g. 2); numeric answer only*
*LAs are paid at a rate of $10/hour over the semester. Please note, preference will be given to departments (as a whole) that provide financial support for a portion of their LAs.*

14. Please describe the funding source for your department and/or other funded LAs.

15. Have you participated in faculty professional development that focuses on learning and teaching?

*Please explain*

16. In this semester, have you participated in DBER meetings, FIU LA Program faculty workshops or any STEM TI events?

## Part B: Planned Instructional Design with LAs

**The Learning Assistant model is built on the understanding that learning requires students to articulate and defend their ideas. Thus, LA-supported courses provide regular opportunities for students to engage with each other in small groups using challenging curricular materials that help students to get closer to a scientific/mathematical understanding. An LA's primary role is to facilitate these collaborative environments, and funding priorities will go to courses that provide regular guaranteed opportunities for students and LAs to engage in substantial discourse around important content ideas.**

**Is your class ready for incorporation of LAs? Are you ready?**
**The following will help you think about the essential elements:**

**1. Does the course structure provide students with regular opportunities to work together in small groups using conceptually challenging materials?**
**2. Will LAs regularly facilitate collaboration among small groups of students?**
**3. Will curricular materials for small-group work be in place by the beginning of the current semester?**
**4. Will you meet with your LAs every week to help them prepare for working with the content and with students?**

**Please note, the above factors will be strongly considered when making decisions about how to invest LA resources.**

17. Please describe the current instructional design of your course (the last time you taught it)

18. Have you taught with LAs in the past? Were you awarded LA funding and by whom? (Mark all that apply)

☐ Yes, I taught with LAs in the past (mention course and when below)

☐ No, I haven't taught with LAs yet

☐ I was awarded funding for LAs by the STEM-TI Provost LA Initiative (mention when below)

☐ I was awarded funding for LAs by the department (mention department below)

☐ I was awarded funding for LAs by the STEM-TI HHMI Program (mention when below)

☐ Other (please specify)

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* 19. Mark all that apply in regards to your course:

☐ The course is a critical course or a gateway course

☐ The course is a multi-section course and I teach one of the sections

☐ The course is a multi-section course and I teach all sections or most students

☐ The course is a large enrollment course (enrollment >150 students)

☐ Typical passing rates in this course are less than 80%

Other (please specify)

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20. What is the format of this course?

○ Face-to-Face

○ Hybrid

○ Online Only

○ Comments:

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21. Please describe the planned instructional design of your course

* 22. Briefly describe the curricular materials (e.g. class activities) that will be used to promote collaborative learning among students

23. Your future instructional design: how often will the following activities occur in your class?

| | Never | Sometimes | Every class |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lecture | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Small group work | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Whole class discussion | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Individual work | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Any hands-on learning activity (including on a computer) | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Clicker questions | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

Other (please specify)

**Part C: Hiring and Supporting LAs in their Roles**

**Faculty and departments who use LAs are responsible for:**
**a) Reviewing applications, interviewing candidates, making hiring decisions**
**b) Providing/using curricular materials that engage students in small groups on a regular basis**
**c) Structuring the LA's time to maximize the benefit to students, LAs, and faculty**
**d) Making sure that new LAs are enrolled in the Learning Assistant seminar course**
**e) Meeting weekly with LAs**
**f) Assessing the impact of classroom reform (with the support of the STEM Transformation Institute)**
**g) Participating in the larger FIU LA Program community**

24. Describe the planned role of LAs in your class.
*For example, what will LAs do in class. Please be specific.*

* 25. First interaction with students

When will LAs first facilitate collaborative learning environments among students?

☐ Week 1

☐ Week 2

☐ Week 3

☐ Week 4

Other (please specify)

\* 26. Weekly Meetings

*What do you plan to do in your weekly meetings with LAs?*

27. LA Benefits

*How will students who are hired as LAs in this course benefit from their experience?*

28. Additional Resources

*Describe any additional resources your department will provide for this course (i.e. TA's, faculty support, space, remodeling, etc)*

**Part D: Assessment of LA-reformed Classrooms**

**The Learning Assistant Program facilitates the implementation of evidence-based practices in the classroom; thus, assessment of the LA-reformed course's impact on student learning, attitudes, and/or success is core to its operation. Faculty implementing LA-supported reform in their classrooms are expected to include appropriate assessments to learn how the LAs have contributed to their class and guide future reform efforts. Faculty are encouraged to save effort by using assessment resources freely available on the web, including conceptual surveys, attitudinal surveys, and student satisfaction surveys (http://stem.fiu.edu/resources/). Also, passing rates, embedded exam questions, and other methods offer straightforward assessment opportunities. Faculty are encouraged to contact the STEM Transformation Institute (stem@fiu.edu) for support in developing their assessment plan.**

**Faculty Applications for LAs include evaluation of prior LA-reformed implementation(s) as part of the award process. Please summarize outcomes from prior LA-reformed courses (if applicable) and your assessment plan for this course.**

29. Please provide an overview of the impact of prior LA-refomed implementations, including outcomes and lessons learned. *Please be specific.*

30. Prior Assessment of LA-supported courses:

How did you evaluate the implementation of the reformed instruction with LAs?

*e.g. Instrument 1:  FCI, pre-post gains of 30%*

Instrument 1:

Instrument 2:

Instrument 3:

DFW rates:

Course Exam:

Student satisfaction
survey:

Other:

Other:

N/A, funding will help me
start reforming my course
with LA support

* 31. Spring 2016 LA Assessment Plan

*Please provide an overview of your assessment plan to assess the effectiveness of LAs*

**Part E: Comments**

32. Would you like to provide us with any additional information about your request for LAs:

33. Do you have any questions/requests/comments: