

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: TEAM-TEACHING PROGRAM THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

I am pleased to release a call for proposals for new, interdisciplinary, team-taught courses in the College of Arts and Sciences to promote innovative teaching and learning that fosters student success” and to develop practices and mechanisms to encourage and recognize interdisciplinary efforts.

This Team-Teaching Program RFP outlines the parameters for team teaching and includes a proposal process to provide compensation to departments/programs participating in the team-teaching program. Proposals for fall 2024 or spring 2025 require the support of all department chairs and directors who have instructors receiving teaching credit.

Proposed team-taught courses, utilizing instructors from different areas, disciplines, programs, or departments should provide innovative learning opportunities and may encourage interdisciplinary research, scholarship, and creative work. Such courses offer students a powerful understanding of a liberal arts education by conveying within a single class a wide range of perspectives and interconnectivity that is inherent in academia and the world. Students will also learn from a model of respectful and constructive forms of collaboration and disagreement.

Definitions

For the purposes of this plan, a *team-taught* course is defined as collaborative teaching. Teaching teams of two or more faculty (no more than four faculty) are expected to collaborate on defining the objectives for the course, putting together the course materials, conducting the formal instruction of students, and evaluating student performance. Note that courses in which one faculty member of record convenes the course and invites one or more guest speakers to take part in the class are not considered team-taught courses. (Team-taught courses may, however, utilize outside speakers when appropriate in addition to the primary faculty members of record.) Moreover, for the purposes of this RFP, *interdisciplinary* will mean that participating faculty instructors must be from demonstrably different areas, disciplines, programs, or departments.

Funding

- A&S will fund up to three team-teaching proposals each semester (fall 2024 & spring 2025).
- The College will provide funding, equivalent to the PTF/overload rate, to each of the involved programs/departments to offset the cost of covering the course that would otherwise have been taught.
- Additionally, the College will provide \$2,000 in summer 2024 funding for course development and the funds can be divided as desired by the participating faculty (e.g. 2 faculty could split the funding for \$1000/each; 4 faculty could receive \$500 each).
- One or more of the associated programs/departments may not need the funding to make the proposal work. This should be stated in the proposal.

- Please see Appendix A of this document for guidelines associated with team-teaching that does not require college funding. **ATTENTION: Proposals are requested only for team-teaching that requires additional funding from the college.**

Teaching Credit

- Faculty members who are instructors in the team-taught course will each receive a full-course teaching credit for their participation as long as enrollment minimums (see below) are met.

Course Codes and Class Sizes

- Team-taught courses with two faculty must have an enrollment minimum of 30 students; team-taught courses with 3 faculty, must have an enrollment minimum of 45; team-taught courses with four faculty must have an enrollment minimum of 60 or more students.
- Proposals should specify the existing topics course code, or curriculum mechanism, used to run the course. If not using an existing topics course code, then the proposal must demonstrate that the course can be listed in a timely manner on E-campus to allow for full enrollments.

Eligibility

This is an Arts and Sciences initiative and as such faculty participating in this program must be from A&S.

Application Process

Proposed team-taught courses should be **new** courses, typically using existing open topics courses currently in the catalog. Interested faculty should work with their program/department chair to submit the open topics course proposals. Open topics courses take just a few days to move through the approval process system and don't need to be approved prior to submitting the application.

Page limits must be followed for applications to be considered. Please use size 12 font, single-spacing, one-inch margins and submit all information as one PDF document.

- The proposal should include the following information in this order:
- Cover page with the names, ranks, emails, and program affiliations of the faculty instructors as well as a course title, course number, course enrollment seat cap, semester to be taught (fall 2024 or spring 2025) and a ~200-word course description.
- The existing open topics course code, or curriculum mechanism, used to run the course (1 or 2 sentences)
- Description of the interdisciplinary nature of the course (up to 1 page)
- Explanation of why team-teaching benefits the course and student learning (up to 1 page)
- List of all participating faculty with department affiliations and a brief description of their involvement. Include whether they will be full participants receiving course credit or just guests (up to 1 page)
- Request(s) for departmental/program funding (1 or 2 sentences; see Funding above)
- Draft syllabus

For team-taught courses that involve requests for additional resources, the application will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. The degree of interdisciplinarity of the course

2. The special value-added to students by having the course team taught
3. The degree of integration of the faculty members in teaching the course
4. Course design that is creative and thoughtful towards delivering learning outcomes
5. Complete application that appropriately follows guidelines

The application shall be submitted via email to Angelique Beckmann (ambeckmann@uri.edu) by 4pm on October 23, 2023 by one of the department chairs who shall copy in all other associated department chairs. Submission of the application indicates that all department chairs have been consulted and support the proposal. Faculty are encouraged to reach out to their chairs early on in this process.

Selection Process

The Associate Deans and I will review the submitted team-teaching course proposals based on the criteria specified above. Up to three proposals will be selected for each semester. We encourage proposals that build collaborations across parts of the College of Arts and Sciences that rarely interact.

Timeline

- Proposals must be sent by department chairs/directors and are due to Angelique Beckmann (ambeckmann@uri.edu) by 4pm on October 23, 2023. Applicants will be informed in November 2023 about the status of their proposals. This will allow for courses to be included in fall 2024 and spring 2025 schedules.
 - The instructors and chairs agree to vigorously promote their course after accepting the funding. The college will also promote the courses.
 - These team-taught courses will run in the fall 2024 or spring 2025 semester.
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Appendix A

Full-time faculty who seek full teaching credit for a team-taught course **do not** need to submit an application to team-teach when all of the following 3 conditions apply:

- 1) The proposed team-taught course is supported by each of the connected chairs.
- 2) The department chairs are not asking the college for additional resources to run the team-taught course, as the team-taught course does not interfere with running needed courses and meeting seat needs. In other words, there should be no additional PTF/overload funding required by the participating departments.
- 3) All faculty members regularly attend and participate in each session of the course (dividing up the class meetings is not supported).
- 4) To encourage team teaching, chairs may provide full workload credit for each member of the team that teaches the course. Team-taught courses with two faculty must have an enrollment minimum of 30 students; team-taught courses with 3 faculty, must have an enrollment minimum of 45; team-taught courses with four faculty must have an enrollment minimum of 60 or more students.