

The College of Arts, Sciences & Education 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 and the STEM Transformation Institute has been charged with administrative operations of the Initiative.

Please complete one application per course requesting LAs. Applications can be by individuals or teams, with instructional teams 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 planning of the course including measures of student learning. Consultation with the STEM Institute is encouraged to determine readiness for course transformation (including review of application prior to submission). Please note that incomplete applications will not be considered.

Sustained funding for the LA program is dependent on evidence of improved student learning. Applicants are expected to plan for assessment of course transformations to document changes as well as provide feedback for future course improvements. Course measures will develop and may include a combination of course/exam grades, common exam questions, conceptual surveys, participation, etc. Comparisons may be done with previous semesters, implementations or parallel sections. The STEM Institute may be consulted for input on assessment plans before or after submission.

Initial funding will be considered for applications submitted on or before October 1st (for Spring courses) or February 15th (for Fall & Summer courses). Applications submitted after this date will be considered subject to availability of funds.

(Last update: 9/1/18)

Important! This applications is for faculty who worked with LAs for up to 3 semesters. Please complete one application per course.

1. I am applying for LA-funding for a course in the following semester and year:

Funding is awarded on a semester basis due to structural changes (e.g. student enrollment, etc.) and instructional changes. Please mark one semester only.

	Spring	Summer	Fall
2019	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Comments

2. Have you previously worked with LAs ?

- No
- Yes, but in another course
- Yes, in this course but only for one semester
- Yes, in this course for three or more semesters

3. Are you familiar with the Learning Assistant Model?

- No. Please sign me up for a workshop. All new faculty are required to take a Faculty LA workshop.
- Yes, I attended a workshop (when?)

Workshop date:

Faculty Application for LA-Supported Courses (New Application)

Part A: Course/ Instructor/ Department Information

4. Your Last Name:

5. Your First Name:

6. Your FIU Email:

7. Your Role:

Course Instructor, Dept Head, Etc:

8. Course Department:

9. Course Prefix, Number and Section(s):

10. Course Title:

11. Course Instructor(s) (if different or team):

12. Expected Course Enrollment (e.g. 150)

An approximation is fine. Numeric answer only.

13. Total Number of LAs to be used in course (A typical ratio is 1 LA to 25-40 students.)

(e.g. 8); numeric answer only

Regardless of funding source:

14. Number of LAs requested to be funded by LA Program

(e.g. 2); numeric answer only

For this specific course

15. Match: Number of LAs funded by your department and/or other sources 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.

16. Please describe the funding source for your department and/or other source(s).

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

Please explain

18. In this semester, have you participated in DBER meetings, FIU LA Program faculty workshops, CAT Activities or any STEM Institute events?

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Part B: Planned Instructional Design with LAs

The Learning Assistant model is built on evidence 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 develop scientific, engineering and/or mathematical understanding. An LA's primary role is to facilitate student engagement in 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.

Checklist: Is your class ready for incorporation of LAs? Are you ready? Consider these essential elements in the following responses, as they are considered through the review process:

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 semester?
4. When will you meet with your LAs every week to help them prepare for working with the content and with students?

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

20. Please describe the planned instructional design of your course (if different):

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

- No, I haven't taught with LAs yet
- Yes, I taught with LAs in the past
- I was awarded funding for LAs by the Provost LA Initiative
- I was awarded funding for LAs by the department
- I was awarded funding for LAs by the STEM Institute HHMI Program
- Other (please specify)

* 22. 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)

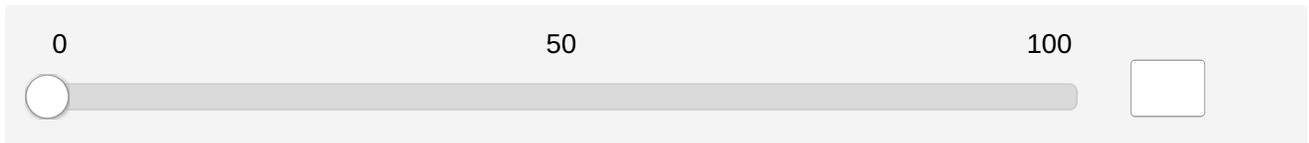
23. What is the format of this course?

24. Briefly describe the curricular design (e.g. class activities and materials) that will be used to promote collaborative learning among students:

If mentioned earlier, skip the question

25. On average, how much of your daily class time will be spent on student learning through interactions with peers and/or LAs? (in %)

0 50 100



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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 (The LA program carries out common recruitment activities and will provide LA applications for your review)
- 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 Institute)
- g) Participating in the larger FIU LA Program community

26. Describe the planned role of LAs in your class.

For example, what will LAs do in class. Please be specific.

27. First interaction with students

When will LAs first facilitate collaborative learning environments among students?

▼

28. Weekly Meetings

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

29. LA Benefits

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

30. 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. Also, passing rates, embedded exam questions and other methods offer straightforward assessment opportunities. Faculty are encouraged to contact the STEM Institute (stem@fiu.edu) for support in developing their assessment plan.

Future Faculty Applications for LAs will 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.

31. Next semester assessment plan

Please provide an overview of your assessment plan to assess the effectiveness of your instructional changes

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

33. 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:	<input type="text"/>
Instrument 2:	<input type="text"/>
Instrument 3:	<input type="text"/>
DFW rates:	<input type="text"/>
Course Exam:	<input type="text"/>
Student satisfaction survey:	<input type="text"/>
Other:	<input type="text"/>
Other:	<input type="text"/>
N/A, funding will help me start reforming my course with LA support	<input type="text"/>

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Part E: Comments

34. Would you like to provide us with any additional information about your request for LAs/Do you have any questions/requests/comments:

35. I have completed my application and would like it to be reviewed

Yes

No

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...it looks like you have experience working with LAs, please submit this application instead: [Application for faculty who worked with LAs for more than 3 semesters.](#)