



Revised: 11.12.09. Please note new deadlines.
Denied grant applications may be
resubmitted for the November 30, 2009 deadline.

DEC Research Innovation Grant Instructions and Application

Introduction

The DEC strategic initiative will provide an unprecedented opportunity for our community to develop innovative courses and curricula, explore new areas of applied research, and advance Signature Learning. Therefore, the University has earmarked special funds to support faculty contributions to DEC called *Research Innovation Grants*.

Grant Program Constituencies

Although the most obvious constituency for this small grant program will be faculty in the design, engineering, and commerce disciplines, we strongly encourage applications from faculty in other schools who believe they can make significant contributions to DEC.

Policies and Restrictions

1. Full-time (tenured, tenure-track and contract), adjunct, and part-time faculty may apply for these awards.
2. Each faculty member may only submit *one grant application per semester*, and receive a maximum of *one grant per academic year*.
3. Two or three faculty members may submit separate applications to work on the same collaborative project, each receiving a maximum of one grant per academic year.
4. Grants are made up to a maximum of \$3,000, or the cost of a course release.
5. Faculty from any school may apply, but the projects must explicitly involve design, engineering and commerce (or at least 2 of the 3 areas) *in ways that substantially further the priorities of the DEC initiative*. (See the "Current DEC Priorities" section below.)
6. Each grant recipient must document and present a brief summary of their work in a format and venue that has been advertised to the University community. Summaries could be a lunch seminar, a lecture, a document or interactive model on the Web, etc.

The grant funds may be used to support any of the following expenses:

- Faculty stipends
- Faculty course releases (up to 3 credits) that have been approved by *both the Program Director and Dean* in the faculty member's academic unit
- DEC-related travel
- DEC-related professional development
- Supplies (e.g., project-related software, educational materials, etc.)
- Student workers
- Small equipment and other reasonable expenses

The following activities are examples of fundable projects:

- Course or curriculum development and piloting
- Collaborative projects (e.g. design projects, business plans, etc.)
- Research projects and grant initiatives

- Internship program development and industry collaborations
- Service-learning program initiatives
- Web and media design projects to enhance DEC development

Current DEC Priorities (*Important: grants must support one or more of the priorities below.*)

- Create substantial, integrated curricular components linking SDM, SET, and SBA (or any two of the three) that foster innovation, teamwork and collaboration, integrative thinking, Signature Learning, and rigorous interdisciplinary connections.
- Develop ways for schools beyond SDM, SET, and SBA to significantly contribute to and benefit from DEC in a sustained manner. Beta test and document these approaches.
- Support applied research that exemplifies the primary attributes of DEC, including, but not limited to, teamwork and collaboration, developing innovative products and services, design-thinking, and interdisciplinary methods. Grantees are required to document for non-specialists how their completed research contributes to the advancement of DEC.
- Develop and pilot innovative courses and curricula that serve as demonstration projects for DEC; document completed projects.
- Significantly increase awareness and understanding of DEC inside and outside of the University, and clearly convey how DEC is being planned and implemented.
- Identify and find solutions to overcome institutional barriers that impede DEC development, such as course formats, course scheduling, assigning credits, teaching loads, team teaching, space and facilities issues, etc.
- Critically and aesthetically investigate new kinds of teaching/learning and research environments that would be required by DEC; model and document these environments.
- Develop, model, and test innovative ways of integrating DEC with co-curricular programming; document these activities.

**We encourage all documentation to include visual media such as photography or video.*

Procedures and Method of Evaluation

Faculty must apply for the grants using the attached form and format. The next fall submission deadline is November 30, 2009; the spring submission deadline is March 15, 2010. Grantees are notified about two weeks after the submission deadlines. The program ends for the academic year in May 2010, or when funds are exhausted. A faculty committee, that includes members of DEC working groups, evaluates the applications and makes recommendations to the DEC Coordinating Committee, and provides constructive feedback to applicants.

Applications should be emailed in Microsoft Word format to Lilly Krupsha in the Provost's Office: krupshae@philau.edu. *Documentation of project outcomes should be sent to Lilly Krupsha within 2 weeks of the conclusion of a grant's funding period.*

DEC is an interdisciplinary, collaborative approach to teaching, learning, and conducting research that fosters innovation and leadership. The program challenges faculty and students to improve the human condition by defining problems, such as aging in the home with dignity, and developing corresponding solutions in the form of products and services. The program will eventually result in a four year integrated undergraduate curriculum, and support minors and graduate studies. The Strategic Plan calls for each of the three major DEC disciplines to have one endowed chair. These leadership positions are intended to attract talented new faculty members to the University, support existing instruction and research, and continually build and refine the DEC curriculum. The University's long-term goal is to create distinctive facilities that support the team-oriented approach to innovation that is at the core of the DEC initiative.

DEC Research Innovation Grant Application Form

Project Summary:

Please provide a 1-3 page description of the proposed project, which should include an overview of how this project directly relates to, and furthers, the DEC initiative, based on the “Current DEC Priorities” section of the grant application above. Describe the disciplines involved in the project and their intended contributions. If the project involves several faculty members, list who they are and how they will divide and share responsibilities.

Project Goals and Objectives:

Please list the primary goals and objectives of the project.

Deliverables and Timeframe:

Please list the final products resulting from the project and the timeframe in which they will be completed. Include a brief description of how you will document the project.

Assessment:

Please provide a brief description of how the project outcomes will be assessed.

Budget:

ITEM	COST	EXPLANATION (Optional)
TOTAL COST	\$	

Required Approvals

To facilitate electronic submission of grant applications, deans and program directors must send an email from their University email account stating the applicant’s name followed by “Research Innovation Grant Approval” as the subject. In the body, indicate your review and approval of the submission. The approval of the dean is required for *all* DEC grant applications; the additional approval of the program director is needed *only* for a course release. Email approvals should be sent to Lilly Krupsha in the Provost’s Office: krupshae@philau.edu. Applications will not be considered until approval emails are received.