Division of Academic Affairs
Technology Fee – Project Proposal
2015

Project Proposal Type

Systemic Project

Projects proposed by operational units of the university (e.g., colleges, academic departments, Library, etc.) for instructional technology enhancements of unit-wide or university-wide scope.

All Systemic Project proposals must be acknowledged (signed) by the operational unit head (e.g. Dean, Chair, Director, etc.).

Project Title

IPads for Academic Coaching Services for Students with Disabilities

Total Amount of Funding Requested

$10,794.60

Primary Project Coordinator

Vannee Cao-Nguyen, Ed.D., Director, SDRC

Unit Head Acknowledgment

Unit Head Signature: __*Vannee Cao-Nguyen*____   Date: __1/21/15__

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1. **Description of initiative/investment to enhance instructional technology.**
    The Student Disability Resource Center provides a variety of services and accommodations to UWF students with disabilities. Academic Coaching (AC) is a service provided to students with disabilities in an effort to ensure retention and timely progression toward degree completion. AC is a one-on-one experience intended to help students with disabilities develop necessary skills to become successful and self-directed lifelong learners. Disabilities such as learning disorders, Autism Spectrum Disorders, ADHD, and psychological conditions may pose difficulties with executive functioning which can impact a student's overall ability to stay on course with his/her education. Academic coaching supports students in building skills such as goal setting, organization, time management, planning and prioritizing, note taking, study and test taking preparation. This additional support is especially critical for students with disabilities who are at risk of failing. SDRC takes a proactive approach with registered SDRC students by monitoring semester GPA's. Students with a cumulative GPA of 2.3 or below are recommended for AC. SDRC students are also able to request this service if they need the extra support. The strategies students learn during AC are intended to help improve academic performance with the goal of timely progression toward degree completion.

    SDRC is seeking to enhance how AC is facilitated by incorporating the use of technologies in our methodology. We are requesting funding to purchase ten Apple iPads, related accessories, storage equipment, and a collection of software applications to enhance the AC Services provided to students with disabilities. Academic coaching will be more effective with the use of iPads to train students on the use of digital applications and tools to maximize their potential for academic success.

    The traditional paper/pencil approach to AC is quickly becoming obsolete. Instead, use of technology for services such as this can enhance student learning and promote the development of *21st Century Skills* our students need to be successful. It has been a challenge training students on effective use of a hard copy planner, for instance, when they are only familiar with the calendar on their mobile devices. An example of an outdated method of studying is the use of traditional handwritten flashcards. Currently, technological advances allow for easy and efficient method of study using digital flashcards available on mobile devices.

    Students today are very technologically savvy, and many rely heavily on technological aids and tools to manage their daily functioning. The use of iPads for AC will lend a more adaptive and malleable approach to teaching students how these same resources can help facilitate their academic life. With the use of iPads, academic coaches can provide training on the countless number of academic skills applications, and it allows for customizable AC sessions depending on the student needs and learning style. The tablets are easy to transport, durable and efficient. Academic coaching takes place in various locations around campus depending on volunteer's schedules and student needs. Therefore, the portable tablets are also a convenient way to ensure digital resources and tools used during AC are available for all sessions.

The iPads (if funded) will remain the property of SDRC and will be checked out and returned to the SDRC by academic coaches for each session. iPads will serve as training tools used by academic coaches and will not be released to SDRC students who are receiving coaching services. The iPads will not contain personal or confidential student information. The iPads will be stored in a powersync station that charges and syncs the devices. The powersync station will be housed at SDRC. SDRC will consult with the University Libraries on best practices for handling iPads that circulate among SDRC academic coaches, including handling issues of data wiping, information security, and resetting software applications to "fresh" state when the units rotate to a new academic coach.

2. **Description of how initiative has a college/unit-wide or university–wide scope.**
   Academic coaching services available to students with disabilities have a university-wide impact. Academic coaching is a one-on-one support service intended to help students with disabilities develop necessary skills to become successful and self-directed lifelong learners. This service directly supports *UWF's priority to foster student learning and development that include knowledge, skills, and dispositions that optimize students' prospects for personal and professional success.* Academic coaching services also contribute to improving persistence and graduation rates of students with disabilities which has an overall impact on UWF's goal of ensuring student retention and timely degree completion.

3. **Description of project alignment with UWF Strategic Plan.**

   UWF Priority 1.1. Foster student learning and development to include the knowledge, skills, and dispositions that optimize students' prospects for personal and professional success.
   > The enhanced technology for AC services will help students with disabilities develop necessary skills to become successful and self-directed lifelong learners. If funded, the iPads will enhance the way coaching is facilitated to align more with the technology students currently identify with.

   UWF Priority 1.3. Improve student persistence and timely progression to degree attainment.
   > The enhanced technology will improve the delivery of academic support provided by SDRC to students with disabilities, which will likely result in "*student retention and timely degree completion*."

   UWF Priority 4.1. Support and sustain the high-quality services and infrastructure needed to achieve identified UWF priorities
   > The enhanced technology will improve how the SDRC facilitates academic support to students with disabilities. The iPads in this program will be used as a training tool to educate students about digital resources that can maximize their potential for academic success which can result in timely progression toward degree completion. It will enhance how coaching is facilitated to align more with technology students are familiar with.

4. **Description of benefits provided.**

- Academic support provided specifically for students with disabilities take into account the functional impact of certain disabilities. The use of technology to facilitate support services ensures flexibility and adaptability for students with disabilities
- Academic coaching support provided to students with disabilities contributes to the achievement of institutional retention efforts
- Training students to use digital academic tools and resources can mitigate the challenges of academic deficiencies impacted by certain disabilities
- Use of iPads during AC sessions will provide training of digital academic tools students can conveniently access on their own mobile devices. This training provides students the skills to wean them away gradually from intensive one-on-one staff assistance and to become more reliant on software resources available on their mobile devices.

5. **Description of how success/impact will be measured.**
   The SDRC will continue to maintain records of AC services. In particular, the success of this project will be measured by monitoring the ongoing participation and GPA's of students identified as at risk of failing (<2.3) who participate in AC services. Additionally, SDRC will solicit feedback from students on the benefits of and any improvements they suggest for the program.

6. **Detailed description of resources required including hardware and software requirements and personnel costs (faculty compensation is not an allowed cost).**

   This proposal request is for 10 Apple iPads (wireless, 16GB) with 2 year care warranties that cover damage to the iPad which will be used by multiple individuals providing coaching services and additional equipment including:
   - Sturdy case covers with keyboard and stylus pens
   - Additional power adapters
   - Bretford PowerSync Station 20 is an app-enabled charge and sync station for iPads. It will securely store, charge, and sync up to 20 iPads. This station will be housed at the SDRC and will have locking features to secure the equipment.
   - MacBook Air to handle the syncing functions of the PowerSync Station
   - Application software for each iPad generally used during AC and funding to purchase additional apps depending on individual need of students receiving AC services.
     - iHomework , $1.99 – Organization and scheduling tool
     - AnkiMobile Flashcards , $24.99 – Memory program for studying
     - Notability, $2.99 -- Note taking program
     - iStudiez Pro, $2.99 – Academic planner

Equipment	Number Requested	Cost	Total Need
iPad Air 16GB	10	$399 .00	$3990.00
ClamCase Pro with Keyboard	10	$169.00	$1690.00
Stylus for iPad	10	$10.00	$100.00
AppleCare+ (2 year coverage)	10	$99.00	$990.00
Additional USB Power Adapter	5	$19.00	$95.00

Bretford PowerSync Station 20 (HE406BG1)	1	$2500.00	$2500.00
MacBook Air 11- inch	1	$1000.00	$1000.00

Application Software for each iPad (4)
  1. iHomework, $1.99 – Organization and scheduling tool
  2. AnkiMobile Flashcards, $24.99 – Study tool
  3. Notability, $2.99 -- Note taking program
  4. iStudiez Pro, $2.99 – Academic planner
	10	$32.96	$329.60

iTune Gift Card for additional app purchase as needed.	1	$100.00	$100.00
Total			**$10,794.60**

7. **Proposed timeline.**
   The materials outlined above will be purchased as soon as funds are available. SDRC will work with IT to ensure proper protocol to format and catalogue iPads. SDRC will also consult with the University Libraries on best practices for handling iPads that circulate among SDRC academic coaches, including handling issues of data wiping, information security, and resetting software applications to "fresh" state when the units rotate to a new academic coach. iPads will be ready for use in coaching sessions within two months of purchase.

8. **Plan for sustainability beyond conclusion of funding from technology fee, if applicable.**
   Not applicable

9. **Resource matching commitments from other organizations/sources (identify organization and amounts), if applicable.**
   Not applicable

10. **Individual responsible for reporting and accountability, along with contact information.**
    Vannee Cao-Nguyen, Director, SDRC, 850.474.2387 vcao@uwf.edu