

# UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

STEP Committee

Technology Fee Application

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**Two SMART Classrooms For the Dept. of English**  
Title

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**John W. Ferstel and Allen Latour**

Name of Submitter  
*(Faculty or Staff Only)*

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**Department of English**

Organization

Title: Two English SMART Classrooms Date: 7/17/2017 (rev)  
Name (Contact Person): John W. Ferstel  
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Department/College/Org: English Department

**Abstract:** This proposal outlines the need for two additional SMART classrooms to be installed in two heavily used classrooms in Griffin Hall, HLG 143 and 130. New faculty, new classes, and the continuing popularity of technology among students all support the importance of the expansion of SMART classrooms at this time. As one of the largest departments in the University with most undergraduate students required to take least three English courses, English continues to need more technology at the present.

In those ten years nearly a generation of UL-Lafayette faculty have completed their move to retirement, and new PhDs, including those in English, have been hired. Younger faculty have increasingly requested more access to technology with which to teach their computer-savvy students. At the same time the Department of English introduced, beginning in 2012, a new series of student-oriented variable topic classes(ENGL 210, 211, and 212) that afforded the faculty the chance to offer a larger and more exciting variety of courses to satisfy the sophomore English requirement, many of which incorporate multi-media, such as film, music, PowerPoint, and Web content. In addition, faculty from English have continued to teach the bulk of the courses in the Humanities program, which usually require multi-media technology. Without more SMART classrooms, the Department has used the venerable STEP cart that was introduced over ten years ago as a way of handling the technology demand. However, this has only been a stop-gap measure as the demand has now far exceeded even this solution.

**Purpose of Grant and Impact on Student Body:** The purpose of the grant is to add two additional SMART classrooms to Griffin Hall to accommodate the substantial use of multimedia that are especially desired by faculty to enrich their courses and stimulate their students' interest. A STEP grant would equip these rooms, which currently lack any instructional technology, with a podium, computer, digital projector, a screen, and speakers, as well as Internet access. More SMART classrooms will allow the English faculty to exploit in significant ways the creativity and imaginations of their tech-savvy students who rightly expect greater audio-visual presentations in their classes by their teachers and their fellow students. Improved technology in the classroom will also better prepare students for the increasing use of electronic media in their professional lives. Both faculty teaching effectiveness and student learning will greatly benefit from these additions.

Currently, most UL undergraduate degree programs require at least three English courses. This means nearly all UL students across campus will benefit from increased multi-media tools in their classes. With increased enrollment in 2014-2016, we are well beyond a point in the Department of English where we can keep up with the demand by newer faculty for SMART classrooms without additional technology.

The two classrooms targeted for technology improvements, HLG 143 and HLG 130, include two very heavily used venues in Griffin Hall. A STEP grant would enable more students to have literature, writing, and folklore classes in a technology-rich environment throughout their college experience at UL.

**Projected Lifetime of Enhancement:** Usually five to six years with regular maintenance. If awarded, it will fall under STEP Sustainability, which would keep the equipment maintained and updated after five years.

**Person(s) responsible for**

**Implementation:** John W. Ferstel, Chair, English Dept. Technology and Distance Learning Committee

**Installation:** Allen Latour, the Laboratory Technician for the College of Liberal Arts who is a Microsoft Technology Associate.

**Maintenance:** Allen Latour, the Laboratory Technician for the College of Liberal Arts who is a Microsoft Technology Associate.

**Operation:** English Department faculty and their students will utilize this equipment

**Training (with qualifications):** John W. Ferstel, Chair, English Dept. Technology and Distance Learning Committee, provides orientation sessions for all new faculty using equipment in this classroom. Since 1995 Mr. Ferstel has promoted the use of computer and Internet-connected technology for teaching in the Department of English. Allen Latour is the IT Lab Technician for the College of Liberal Arts

**Discuss all previous funded STEP projects:** STEP has funded all of the computers, software, and networking equipment for the English department computerized classrooms in H.L. Griffin 106 and 307 as well as the Writing Center Computer Lab in H.L. Griffin 108. STEP has also provided for the

Department's STEP SMART classrooms in H.L. Griffin 129, 201, 202, 204, 301, 303, and 321.

**English Department faculty in collaboration with the College technicians** have written proposals for the majority of the STEP-funded grants for computerized and SMART classrooms over the last fifteen years.

## **Budget Proposal**

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**Equipment    \$40,000**

Two fully-equipped TEC Smart classrooms with all of the usual Items (as indicated by the Office of Information Technology):

This will cover all the SMART classroom equipment, network connections, electrical work, locksmith, PC, Podium, Projector, Screen, Speakers, Electronic Media Switcher as determined by Media Services or other designated vendor..

**TOTAL FUNDING**

**REQUESTED:        \$40,000**