

# UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

STEP Committee

Technology Fee Application

Improving Student Learning in SOCI with  
Technology

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Title

Dr. Jessica Pearce

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Name of Submitter  
*(Faculty or Staff Only)*

Department of Sociology, College of Liberal Arts

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Organization

Title: Improving Student Learning in SOCI with Technology Date: July 26, 2018  
Name (Contact Person): Dr. Jessica Pearce  
Address: Mouton Hall, Room 220, 1411 Johnston Street, Lafayette, La 70504  
Phone Number: 482-5198 Email: pearce@louisiana.edu  
Department/College/Org: Sociology, College of Liberal Arts

**ABSTRACT (250 words or less):**

This grant seeks to provide 20 iPads and 20 microphone kits to the sociology department to enhance student learning in upper-level courses. This department lacks a graduate program. As a result, sociology students are deprived of modern research equipment that is commonplace in other departments, limiting key skills necessary to students' success in the workforce and in future graduate programs. These valuable devices would provide students with opportunities outside the classroom to explore, document, and analyze social life. Observing social phenomena "in situ" (where they are occurring) gives students a chance to grasp abstract ideas and master methodological practices. Additionally, I request the purchase of hardware and software for technological support, normal upkeep, and enhanced utility of these devices.

### Purpose of grant

I am a junior faculty member in sociology who studies emotion management and meaning-making among online communities. Along with research, I have taught upper and lower level undergraduate sociology courses at UL Lafayette and encountered many students who have difficulty grasping abstract sociological concepts. Likewise, many have only a rudimentary understanding of qualitative and quantitative methods. The fact that our department lacks a graduate program only deepens this problem. Without a graduate department, our faculty finds it challenging to provide modern, much less state-of-the-art, equipment to our students. Students are deprived of opportunities that could awaken their excitement and strengthen their understanding of sociology and its practices. If funded this grant would provide the sociology department with iPads and microphone kits with which students can capture the social and interpersonal aspects of everyday campus life. By exposing our students to social life as it's happening ("in situ"), we give our students a chance to actively collect data using the most modern technology available. Expanding the usability and extending the life of the devices are also a priority. Thus, I request three 6-Port USB charging stations, two years of AppleCare+ protection per device, and 20 iPad cases with integrated Bluetooth keyboards for these purposes. Guided, active training is critical for our students; upon graduation, they need command over sociological theory and methods to compete with students from other universities for positions in the workforce or in graduate school cohorts. To solidify our academic standing in the university and local communities, our program needs these valuable tools.

### Impact to the student body as a whole

As a teaching faculty member, I am committed to supporting UL Lafayette students in their pursuit of learning. Though the intention behind this grant is to support sociology majors, particularly those in 300 and 400 level courses, there is no limit to the use of these devices within the department; this includes the anthropology and child and family studies programs. Courses taken as behavioral science electives, such as Introductory Sociology, which seats 500 students per semester, could also include these devices in their curricula for group work. Departmental club and organization members could employ these devices for meetings and club-sponsored activities. Faculty participating in CoLA Day and Preview Day can also utilize these tools to present relevant media for recruitment. Faculty meetings and training sessions also could be enhanced by these devices.

As a researcher, I appreciate the significance of exposing undergraduate students to research. I frequently direct students completing Special Projects and Honors Contracts in my Introductory Sociology courses, as do other professors in my department; these projects could also benefit from this grant. The sociology department teaches qualitative and quantitative methods courses each academic year. These devices could buttress the existing curriculum by extending the lesson outside of the classroom. For instance, students could administer questionnaires on SurveyMonkey using the iPad as the method of collection and can rehearse face to face interviews using the microphone kits. Most students attending graduate school in the social sciences are expected to conduct empirical research; these devices would provide a hands-on approach bolstering students' future achievements.

### Person(s) responsible for

At this time UL Lafayette does not place any restrictions or software on iPads; thus, Dr. Jessica Pearce will be responsible for the implementation, installation, maintenance, operation, and training for the contents on this grant.

Previous funded STEP projects

None

Budget

<i>Description</i>	<i>Qty</i>	<i>Price</i>	<i>Total</i>
a. iPad (Wi-Fi, 128GB) with AppleCare+	20	\$498	\$10,856.40*
c. RAVPower 60W 12A 6-Port USB Charger Desktop Charging Station with iSmart Technology	3	\$25	\$81.75*
d. Logitech Slim Folio Case with Integrated Bluetooth Keyboard for iPad	20	\$99.95	\$2,178.91*
e. RØDE Microphones Video Micro Mobile Kit	20	\$69.95	\$1,399*

*\*total includes tax*

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## Budget Proposal

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1.	<b>Equipment</b>	<b>\$ 10,856.40</b>	20 iPads (Wi-Fi, 128GB) with AppleCare+
2.	<b>Software</b>	<b>\$</b>	
3.	<b>Supplies</b>	<b>\$ 81.75</b> <b>\$ 2,178.91</b> <b>\$ 1,399</b>	3 60W 12A 6-Port USB Charger Charging Stations 20 Folio Cases with Bluetooth Keyboard for iPad 20 RØDE Microphones Video Micro Mobile Kit
4.	<b>Maintenance</b>	<b>\$</b>	
5.	<b>Personnel</b>	<b>\$</b>	
6.	<b>Other</b>	<b>\$</b>	
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$ 14,516.06</b>	