

# UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

STEP Committee

Technology Fee Application

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**Psychology Lab Computer Updates**

Title

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**Amy L. Brown**

Name of Submitter

*(Faculty or Staff Only)*

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**Department of Psychology**

Organization

Title: **Psychology Lab Computer Updates** Date: **July 14, 2019**

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Department/College/Org: Psychology/Liberal Arts

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

The Psychology Department is seeking funds for five (5) computers to upgrade (or set up) lab spaces used primarily or solely by students. Four of these computers will replace older departmental computers that must be disabled due to required Windows 10 updates. The fifth computer is to help set up a research lab for a new faculty member. We are also seeking funds to install SPSS statistical software on these computers, with renewals for five years.

## STEP Proposal Fall 2019

### Psychology Lab Computer Updates

#### Purpose of Grant

**Background.** In 2019, UL Lafayette is discontinuing support for Windows 7 and all university computers must upgrade to Windows 10. However, several computers within the Psychology Department are quite old and contain hardware incompatible with Windows 10. These computers cannot be upgraded and must be disabled. Several of these computers are or were in laboratory spaces used primarily by students.

**Proposal.** We are requesting funds to replace two computers in the Graduate Student lounge (Girard 322), and one computer each in the following faculty research lab spaces: Dr. Amy Brown's Sexual Violence Research Lab (Girard 308), Dr. Emily Sandoz's Louisiana Contextual Research Group (Girard 304), and Dr. Caramillo-Hatch's research lab (Girard 320A). We are requesting standard computers (without monitors) for Dr. Sandoz and Dr. Brown, who already have working monitors, and standard computers with monitors for Dr. Hatch and for the Graduate Lab. Furthermore, we are requesting that all of these computers have SPSS statistical software installed and renewed annually for 5 years.

**Rationale.** Until the end of Spring 2019, there were 8 computers in Girard 322, which is used as a lounge and shared workspace for graduate students. All have since been disabled and removed. Although it is not necessary to replace all of the previous computers, it is imperative that this space be outfitted with some computers. Most graduate students have their own laptops that they bring to campus to complete course assignments, thesis work, and other work. Furthermore, graduate students do have access to computer labs in other buildings. However, it is necessary to provide some emergency access to our graduate students within the building where they spend most of their time. Furthermore, 10 psychology graduate students work as TAs, teaching or assisting with undergraduate courses. TAs often need immediate computer access for monitoring student work, printing out assignments for their classes, entering grades, and checking and updating Moodle.

Faculty researchers work closely with student research assistants. Students work on designing computer-based experiments and surveys, entering data, and monitoring research participation. All of these tasks require access to computers. Dr. Brown and Dr. Sandoz have old computers that cannot be upgraded. Dr. Caramillo-Hatch is a new hire who is being hired without startup funds. We would like to be able to provide her with a research lab computer to encourage her to conduct research involving student research assistants as soon as possible. Enhancing student research is the current QEP, so we intend to do everything that we can to encourage and facilitate student research.

SPSS is the premiere tool for data analysis and is used by researchers around the world. It is likely that Psychology graduates who go on to PhD programs will use SPSS for their doctoral research. Providing students with access to this software now will better prepare them for future studies.

**Impact to student body.** There are 45 graduate students in the Psychology Department who can benefit from access to computers in the Graduate Student Lounge. Five of these students teach 80-person sections of PSYC 110 each semester, so that means 400 undergraduate students can benefit from their teachers' computer access. At least 25 undergraduate and graduate students work in Dr. Brown's

and Dr. Sandoz's research labs, several additional students could potentially work in Dr. Caramillo-Hatch's research lab, and approximately 1000 undergraduate students each semester participate in psychology research for course credit.

### **Projected Lifetime of Enhancement**

Computers from PC Depot have a 5-year warranty, thus we anticipate that computers purchased through this grant will have at least a 5-year life span.

### **Responsible Persons**

Drs. Brown, Sandoz, and Caramillo-Hatch will have primary responsibility for computers in their research labs. Dr. Brown (as Department Head) and Dr. Sandoz (as Graduate Coordinator) will oversee computers in the Graduate Lab. Allen Latour will set up and provide technical support for all computers.

### **Budget Justification**

Three standard computers with monitors will cost \$2895 ( $\$965 * 3$ ). Two standard computers without monitors will cost \$1530 ( $\$765 * 2$ ). Prices found at PC Depot (<https://helpdesk.louisiana.edu/pcdepot/store/desktops>) on July 14, 2019.

An annual license for SPSS for university computers costs \$100 (<https://servicedesk.louisiana.edu/service/spss>). Installing SPSS on five computers will cost \$500 a year. Because we anticipate a 5-year lifetime of this project, we are requesting funding for annual renewals for 5 years, totaling \$2500 for the lifetime of the support period.

### **Previously Funded STEP Projects**

The Psychology Department has received several STEP grants. Most recently (Spring 2019), we were awarded STEP funds for three years of "Qualtrics Survey Software for the Psychology Department." Prior to that, two psychology faculty, Dr. Robert Michael and Dr. Brooke Breaux, along with Allen Latour authored a proposal for "Cognitive PSYC Instructional & Experimental Lab Upgrade" that was funded in Fall 2017. We are seeking to update different labs than those that were upgraded with the 2017 STEP funds.

## Budget Proposal

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1.     **Equipment**               **\$4425** for computers: Three standard computers with monitors and two standard computers without monitors.

2.     **Software**               **\$2500** for 5 years of SPSS software installed on 5 computers.

3.     **Supplies**               **\$**

4.     **Maintenance**           **\$**

5.     **Personnel**               **\$**

6.     **Other**                   **\$**

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**TOTAL:**                       **\$6925**