

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

STEP Committee

Technology Fee Application

**DSLR Cameras - Inventory for increased
enrollment in a required course**

Title

**Stephanie L. Paine
Assistant Professor**

Name of Submitter
(Faculty or Staff Only)

**Department of Visual Arts,
College of the Arts**

Organization

Title: DSLR Cameras - Inventory for increased enrollment in a required course Date: June 20, 2022
Name (Contact Person): Stephanie L. Paine, Assistant Professor
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Department/College/Org: Department of Visual Arts, College of the Arts

ABSTRACT (250 words or less):

The purpose of this grant is to purchase ten (10) digital cameras (DSLRs) for the photography concentration in the Department of Visual Arts. The visual arts curriculum requires all majors to take VIAR 396 Introduction to Digital Photography. Additionally, students minoring in the visual arts, students in Moving Image Arts, and students from the Informatics program often take this course. It frequently exceeds its minimal enrollment, but due to the number of cameras available, students are often redirected to take another class if they do not have their own camera. This grant would increase the number of cameras from twenty to thirty, and would further impact all students in the visual arts as well as allow for the program to serve a wider range of students across campus. Due to a curriculum change, twenty DSLR cameras were previously earned by a STEP grant in the spring cycle of 2019, and increased enrollment in the program has necessitated an increase in equipment.

a. Purpose of grant and impact to student body as a whole

For the 2019-2020 catalog year, the Department of Visual Arts initiated a change to the BFA curriculum requiring visual arts students to take the introductory course of each concentration, which includes VIAR 396 Introduction to Digital Photography. This course introduces the student to photography including DSLR camera use, digital imaging, workflow, and creative expression with the medium. It is currently offered once in the fall semesters, and twice in the spring semesters. Frequently exceeding its minimal enrollment, the course serves upwards of twenty students each class. In the spring semesters, this is problematic because at twenty cameras, we don't have enough to offer for introductory, intermediate, and advanced courses. In an effort to resolve this, students are redirected to take a different class and wait another term or purchase their own DSLR, which is a challenging cost for many. Students are also required to have a laptop, external hard drive(s), and Adobe Creative Suite. Purchasing a DSLR is difficult to justify especially if the student is taking only one semester of photography.

This proposal would increase the number of cameras from twenty (20) to thirty (30). It would impact all students in the visual arts, which includes concentration areas in Art Education, Ceramics, Computer Art and Animation, Graphic Design, Metalwork and Jewelry, New Media and Digital Art, Photography, Printmaking, and Sculpture. As the visual arts curriculum expanded the number of intermediate elective requirements, this grant would continue to impact those taking upper-level photography courses. Additionally, students minoring in the visual arts, students in Moving Image Arts, and students from the Informatics program also take this course, and I often receive requests for this class from students who have a general interest in photography. A larger inventory of cameras would expand the number of students we can serve not only in the college, but also across campus.

This equipment would facilitate the teaching of digital photography to meet industry and academic standards of the medium. It would:

- 1) expand the ability for students from all concentrations to gain skills in photography,
- 2) allow for greater use of existing equipment in the digital print lab,
- 3) support the department's mission to integrate traditional studio practices with contemporary digital technologies,
- 4) facilitate interdisciplinary approaches with other degree concentrations, as described above

This equipment would also reflect contemporary image-based practices, which has embraced digital technology. Every commercial practice and many artistic processes today begin with digital cameras, computers, and computer software. A photographer's workflow is generally structured as 1) composing and making images with a digital camera; 2) uploading images to a computer; 3) sorting, organizing, and labeling images to be used in the editing process; 4) editing images using software like Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom; and 5) printing images using an inkjet printer. DSLR cameras will allow our students to learn the technical components of photographic image capture including exposure, shutter speeds, apertures, ISO, focal length, sharpness, and composition. Unlike point-and-shoot and phone cameras, DSLRs are the only type of cameras that have those abilities while producing the digital files and quality needed to use in image-editing software.

b. Projected lifetime of enhancement

This proposal is requesting funding for ten Canon EOS Rebel SL3 DSLR Camera bodies and 18-55mm lens (camera kit), ten 32GB SanDisk Memory Cards, ten Case Logic camera bags, and ten 2-year Canon CarePAK Plus protection plans.

The life expectancy of DSLR cameras and memory cards is about ten to twelve years. Memory cards are a necessary component of the digital camera providing a means to record and store hundreds of digital files, and are not included with the camera. Additionally, with the security of a bag and the manufacturer's protection plan, the camera can exceed its life expectancy.

c. Person(s) responsible for

The person responsible for the equipment purchased with this grant is Stephanie Paine, Assistant Professor of Photography in the Department of Visual Arts, who will catalogue, maintain and lend the equipment to students. At the start and end of each semester, Stephanie inspects and cleans the cameras. Students using a camera, and any equipment in the photography area, must provide their university ID, email address, and contact information including phone number and home address. They are required to comply with the policy on equipment rental as reviewed and stated in the course syllabus. Cameras are stored in an area that is inaccessible without a key.

Stephanie Paine was raised in Michigan and earned an MFA degree in photography from Purdue University. Her work has been shown nationally and internationally at leading gallery spaces including the Ogden Museum of Southern Art, the Center for Fine Art Photography, and SoHo Photo of New York. She recently received honorable mention for the international Julia Margaret Cameron Awards recognizing creative works by women photographers. She has taught visual arts courses for over ten years, which includes experience as instructor of record at Purdue University and as an instructor at Sabanci University in Istanbul. In addition to developing course content and teaching the photography courses in the department, Paine is the photography area coordinator and is responsible for the equipment, studio spaces, and supplies in the studios. She has been the only professor of photography at UL-Lafayette since August of 2016. Her professional practice includes digital photography, film photography, digital and analogue hybrid techniques, silver gelatin printing, digital negatives, printing-out paper and alternative processes.

Budget Proposal

1. Equipment \$7,499.90

EOS Rebel SL3 EF-S 18-55mm f/4-5.6 IS STM Lens Kit Black

Price: \$ 749.99 from Canon.com

Quantity: 10

2. Supplies \$815.76

Case Logic TBC-409 DSLR Shoulder Bag (Black)

Price: \$ 25.11, from bhphotovideo.com, BH #CATBC409 • MFR #TBC-409

Quantity: 10

Total: \$251.10

SanDisk 32GB Extreme PRO SDHC UHS-I Memory Card

Price: \$ 12.99, from bhphotovideo.com, BH #SAEPSD32GV3G • MFR #SDSDXXG-032G-GN4IN

Quantity: 10

Total: \$129.90

3. Maintenance \$689.90

Canon CarePAK PLUS (2-year)

Price: \$68.99 from Canon.com

Quantity: 10

4. Other \$50.00

Shipping and Handling

TOTAL: \$9,055.56