

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

STEP Committee

Technology Fee Application

**PC Computer & Printer Replacement, and SPSS Software & Vision
Pro Software Renewal in Burke-Hawthorne Hall 250 Computer
Lab**

Title

**Dr. Michael Gervais, Allen Latour, Dr. W.R. Davie, &
Patricio Salinas**

Name of Submitter
(Faculty or Staff Only)

Department of Communication

Organization

Title: PC Computer & Printer Replacement, and SPSS Software & Vision Pro Software Renewal in Burke-Hawthorne Hall
250 Computer Lab Date: 7/6/23

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Department/College/Org: College of Liberal Arts, Department of Communication

ABSTRACT (250 words or less):

The purpose of this STEP grant is to replace the Windows-based computer workstations and printer in the teaching lab and classroom shared by the Department of Communication (CMCN) and Communicative Disorders (CODI) located in Burke-Hawthorne 250. In addition, it proposes to update the existing SPSS computer licenses for the next year and obtain renewal of Vision Pro software, which allows instructors to display and control the screens of student computers. The existing computers and printer were installed in 2017 from a Fall 2016 STEP grant, but they have now exceeded their five-year life cycle. The current SPSS software is incompatible with contemporary versions and applications now in use. Burke-Hawthorne 250 is the only Windows-based computer lab in the building used to instruct about 20 classes from both departments each semester. The computer lab also hosts multiple student organizations and other groups who reserve the room throughout the semester.

This classroom recently received a Fall 2015 STEP grant for the installation of SMART technology and a Fall 2016 STEP grant for the installation of the existing PC-based computers, making it available for classes beyond the ones assigned to students in CMCN and CODI.

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

This grant aims to replace nineteen PC-based student computers and printer in Burke-Hawthorne 250 in addition to updating software packages. This classroom laboratory was upgraded with SMART technology in 2016, including an instructor podium, LCD projector, computer, electronic routing switcher, and motorized projector screen. In 2017, the outdated computers were replaced. With the addition of Vision Pro classroom management software, future classes will be enabled to utilize all computer screens and transmit information directly from the instructor's computer to the student workstations. In addition, this laboratory classroom is equipped with SPSS, a popular statistical analytics program used by research methods courses taught to undergraduate and graduate students.

Burke-Hawthorne Hall 250 is the only Windows-based computer lab in the building and is used to teach around 20 different classes per year. While the computer lab is under the auspices of the Department of Communication (CMCN), it is shared with the Department of Communitive Disorders (CODI) each semester. In addition to accommodating students with core classes majoring in the CMCN and CODI programs, students from other disciplines, such as Moving Image Arts, Music, General Studies, Political Science, Promotional Management, Psychology, and Chemistry also participate in the class lectures as part of their curriculum and instruction.

The small size of the lab (18 students) provides a favorable teacher-to-student ratio preferred over larger labs and lecture rooms. It allows for increased student-to-teacher and student-to-student interaction that tends to produce better learning outcomes. Beyond the regular classes hosted in this room, Burke-Hawthorne 250 is also designated for use by university student organizations who can reserve this room for special meetings and presentations whenever it is available. The room is staffed by Communication graduate assistants and remains open for students to use at various times during the semester when there are no other classes or events scheduled in the room.

The PC computers and printer in Burke-Hawthorne Hall 250 are currently over six years old and the warranty on them has expired. In keeping with the five-year life cycle plan for all computers on campus, these units need to be replaced. Due to the age of these computers, internal components are prone to failure and are not suited for repair or replacement. Further, the computers risk being removed from the University network once they can no longer keep up with the necessary security updates. Workstation failures reduce the number of machines available for teaching and testing purposes. Replacing these nineteen computers with units and the software described below will allow standard levels of classroom and lab activities to be maintained, giving students access to contemporary software, with instructional capabilities improved for all participants using this multiple purpose laboratory.

Projected lifetime of enhancement: 5 – 6 years

Person(s) responsible for:

Implementation: Michael Gervais, Chief Engineer for the Department of Communication and Allen Latour, Laboratory Technician for the College of Liberal Arts.

Installation: Michael Gervais, Chief Engineer for the Department of Communication and Allen Latour, Laboratory Technician for the College of Liberal Arts.

Maintenance: Michael Gervais, Chief Engineer for the Department of Communication and Allen Latour, Laboratory Technician for the College of Liberal Arts.

Operation: Departments of Communication and Communicative Disorders faculty and their students will utilize this equipment. There will possibly be other classes included with the availability of SMART technology in the classroom.

Training (with qualifications): No training is required.

Discuss all previous funded STEP projects: The Communication Department received a STEP grant in Fall 2016, “Burke-Hawthorne Hall 250 Classroom PC Computer and Printer Replacement, SPSS Software Renewal, & Vision Pro Software Installation” by Gervais, Latour, & Davie for \$23,510 for the replacement of computers, printer, and software and a Fall 2015 STEP grant, “Completion of SMART Classroom Technology in Burke-Hawthorne Hall (#117 & 250),” by Gervais for \$36,000 to upgrade to SMART technology in Burke-Hawthorne rooms #250 and 117. The department also received a Fall 2014 grant, “Audio Instructional Lab Upgrade (Burke-Hawthorne Annex),” by Gervais and Davie for \$6,280 to upgrade software and equipment for the audio production labs in the Burke-Hawthorne Audio Annex.

Timeline / Implementation Schedule:

Spring 2024, beginning of semester: Place computer, printer, and software order.

Spring 2024, mid-semester: Estimated arrival of items ordered.

Summer 2024: installation of all equipment.

Fall 2024: new computers and equipment used in classes by faculty and students.

Budget Proposal

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| 1. | Equipment | \$26,562: 19 Dell Optiplex Plus 7000 desktop PC computers
\$3,610: 19 Dell 22" HD monitors
\$855: 19 Dell SB521A Slim Soundbars
\$330: 1 Hewlett Packard M402dn laser printer |
| 2. | Software | \$1,900: 18 SPSS Advanced Statistics, license upgrade for one year
\$2,000: Vision Pro Classroom Management software |
| 3. | Supplies | \$ |
| 4. | Maintenance | \$ |
| 5. | Personnel | \$ |
| 6. | Other | \$ |

TOTAL: **\$35,257**