

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

STEP Committee

Technology Fee Application

FG Mouton 110 Computer Lab refresh

Title

Angel Littlejohn, ISM Manager

Name of Submitter

(Faculty or Staff Only)

College of Business Administration (MCOBA)
Information Systems & Multimedia Laboratories (ISM)

Organization

Title: FG Mouton 110 Computer Lab refresh Date: July 2023
Name (Contact Person): Angel Littlejohn
Address: PO Box 43545, Lafayette, LA 70504-3545
Phone Number: 482-5783 Email: angel@louisiana.edu
Department/College/Org: Moody College of Business Administration (MCOBA)
Information Systems & Multimedia Laboratories (ISM)

ABSTRACT (250 words or less):

The purpose of this grant is to update FG Mouton 110 with the technology necessary to enhance the classroom experience. FGM 110 has outdated, unreliable computers, which limits the software that can be used in that classroom. The Moody College of Business Administration's Office of Information Systems & Multimedia Laboratories (ISM) would like to upgrade the computers in this room to facilitate advanced software use in instruction so that the room can be used to its fullest potential. These upgrades would have a major impact on the classroom experience for many students of several different colleges every year, solely for this singular room. The impact of this upgrade would also reach outside of the university, as we host classes from education partners such as SLCC as well as education events in the K-12 sector such as literary rally. The funding of this grant would also be in accordance with the University of Louisiana's vision of having a state-of-the-art information technology environment supported by an accessible, adaptable, reliable, and sustainable infrastructure and services that support excellence in teaching, research, scholarship, and public service. If this grant is funded, FGM 110 will meet the technological standards of the College of Business and will continue to serve the needs of students by allowing the College of Business as well as entities outside of the university scope to take advantage of a state-of-the-art facility.

Impact on Students

The need for technology in classrooms has increased over the years as instructors seek to engage students and provide a learning experience that will help them to thrive in their post-graduate ambitions. Incorporation of software into curricula has become an essential facet to the learning experience in the College of Business. The purpose of the curriculum is to prepare students for real-world situations, and in this technology-centered day and age, exposure to software is tantamount to students' success after graduation.

This generation of students have been raised using technology, and it has transformed from once a luxury to a current-day necessity when trying to engage them in a classroom setting. This classroom is currently not being used to its full capacity and is currently unscheduled for the fall semester because it lacks sufficiently advanced computers in order for professors to teach using certain software packages. Technology in the classroom makes it feasible for students to collaborate with one another and with their professors. It also helps the instructor improve the teaching process.

This classroom accommodates up to thirty-two students. In the past, on average, there were eight classes that are held in FGM 110 per week. This grant would help many students each year. Instructors from several different disciplines teach in FGM classrooms, so this upgrade would create a positive lasting impression on a wide array of students (and potential students), not just limited to business students at the university. Other classes taught in FGM include math, counseling, communication, educational foundations and leadership, political science, psychology, and physics, as well as Veterans' Upward Bound programs and classes from education partners such as SLCC. This classroom should also be used to facilitate ETS major field tests, which the college uses for assurance of learning purposes.

FGM 110 currently holds thirty-two outdated Dell Optiplex 3020 computers, all struggling to utilize a Windows 10 operating system and host SPSS, Tableau and Quickbooks, all of which are used in business college instruction. There have been multiple complaints received about the slowness and crashing of the PCs on a regular basis, both on a software and hardware level. Hard drives in these computers will often malfunction and be unable to self-repair through Windows, requiring a re-install of the entire Windows operating system and relevant software which, in some cases, is unsuccessful. When these issues arise, it becomes very disruptive when the instructor is forced to interrupt teaching because there may not be enough working computers available at any given moment. The culmination of these preventable issues takes away from student's class time. The computers in FGM 110 are obsolete and this fact has dissuaded faculty members from installing and using software to support their hands-on classroom activities in the past, simultaneously hindering the teachers and hurting the students. Classes have not yet been scheduled in FGM 110 for the Fall 2023 semester due to the unusability of the current machines.

While the requested equipment is the standard setup for a hands-on laboratory classroom, this upgrade will have a significant impact on the classroom experience and engagement of students. If this grant is funded, it will enhance the College of Business and the University as a whole by improving the learning experience of students. It will also have an impact on incoming first-year students' initial perception of our campus. The funding of this grant would put us in line to fulfilling the University of Louisiana's vision of having a state-of-the-art information technology environment supported by an accessible, adaptable, reliable, and sustainable infrastructure and services that support excellence in teaching, research, scholarship, and public service.

The requested equipment is much smaller than the existing computers. Micro form factor machines are included in the quote to streamline the student tables and wiring. The micro form factor equipment is small enough to place on desktops without hindering surface space. For a comparative view, please see figure 1 below. Existing towers are typical of the machine all the way to the left. Micro form factor machines are the size of the example all the way to the right. Since 2020, the College of Business has been utilizing these micro form factor platforms, garnering attention from central IT. Micro form factor is poised to become the new standard for computers at the university, minimizing the physical footprint of technology on campus without sacrificing processing power.



Figure 1

MCOBA ISM currently maintains over one hundred faculty and staff PCs, eight classrooms in Moody Hall and fifteen classrooms in FG Mouton that are enhanced with technology, so the department is familiar with the capabilities of the equipment requested. The department is staffed by a manager with over 25 years' experience in systems administration and also an assistant manager who has been working under the current manager for three years. MCOBA ISM is more than prepared to handle the additions that this grant will provide.

Projected Lifetime of Enhancement

This equipment is expected to have a five- to seven-year life span.

The person responsible for implementation and oversight of this project is Angel Littlejohn, MCOBA ISM Manager. Specific responsibilities include:

- a. Implementation
MCOBA ISM
- b. Installation
MCOBA ISM
- c. Maintenance
MCOBA ISM
- d. Operation
MCOBA ISM
- e. Training (with qualifications)
MCOBA ISM will train
faculty and staff assigned to the room, if needed.

Budget Proposal

| | | |
|---------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Equipment | \$26,201.92 |
| 2. | Software | \$ |
| 3. | Supplies | \$ |
| 4. | Maintenance | \$ |
| 5. | Personnel | \$ |
| 6. | Other | \$ |
| TOTAL: | | \$26,201.92 |

Timeline/Implementation Schedule

Fall 2023 – Place order for project

Spring 2024 – Installation

Spring 2024 – Implementation

Previously Funded STEP Projects

- *Expansion of Digital Signage.* Fall 2015. Nadine Bayard.
- *FGM 207 Interactive Classroom Enhancement.* Fall 2016. Nadine Prendergast.
- *Financial Services & Business Research Lab.* Fall 2016. Nadine Prendergast.
- *FGM 102 & 214 Interactive Classroom Enhancement.* Fall 2017. Nadine Prender-

gast and Mohammed Zubair.

- *FGM 215 Interactive Classroom Enhancement*. Spring 2018. Nadine Prendergast, Grant Coulon and Sara Casiday.
- *FGM 208 Active Learning Classroom Enhancement*. Spring 2019. Phuc Tran.
- *FGM 204 Interactive Classroom Enhancement*. Fall 2019. Heather Devalcourt.
- *Creation of virtualized MCOBA MSAccess computer lab*. Summer 2020. Angel Littlejohn.
- *Creation of virtualized SPSS computer lab*. Summer 2020. Angel Littlejohn.
- *FGM 215 Active Learning Classroom Enhancement*. Spring 2023. Angel Littlejohn.
- *FGM 111 Computer Lab refresh*. Spring 2023. Angel Littlejohn.