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

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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: 7/9/24

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ABSTRACT (250 words or less):

The purpose of this STEP grant is to replace the Widows-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 and Microsoft support will end in the fall of 2025 and will cause the computers to be removed from the university's network if they are not replaced. 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 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 the19 PC-based student computers and the printer in Burke-Hawthorne 250, in addition to updating software packages. This classroom laboratory was upgraded with SMART technology in 2016 to enhance teacher and student instruction, 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 In 2017, the outdated computers were replaced.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 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, such as the Speech and Debate team, who can reserve this room for special meetings and presentations whenever it is available. The room is staffed each semester 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 seven 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, they cannot be upgraded to Windows 11 and its internal components are prone to failure, which are not suited for repair or replacement. Further, the computers are still operating with the Windows 10 platform, which Microsoft is discontinuing its support of maintenance and upgrades on October 14, 2025. Without updates for software and viruses, the computers pose a risk to the security of the campus network. The department has already been warned that these computers will be out of compliance. If they are not replaced, they will be removed from the university's network and will no longer be used by the start of the fall semester in August 2025. Workstation failures reduce the number of machines available for teaching and testing purposes. Removing the computers will have a detrimental impact on the classes – from aphasia studies to statistics – that are currently taught in the computer lab.

Replacing these 19 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. If awarded, the installation of the new computers will be scheduled over the summer break to avoid any classroom disruptions and have a smooth transition to the new operating system.

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 STEP grants in Spring 2023: $41,680 Student Technology Enhancement Program (STEP) grant for "Communication Department Mac Lab Update" (Wallace, S., Latour, A., Dinu, L., Gervais, M., & Guillory, K.) with the acquisition of 19 Apple iMac computers and accessories; Spring 2022: $22,472 Student Technology Enhancement Program (STEP) grant for "V. L. Wharton Hall Editing Suite Computer Replacement and Distance Learning Access" (Salinas, P., Gervais, M., Davie, W., & Latour, A.) with the acquisition of 11 Apple computers and accessories for digital editing; Summer 2020: $38,342 Student Technology Enhancement Program (STEP) grant for "Establishment of a Media Command Center for the Department of Communication" (Salinas, P., Gervais, M., Davie, W., & Latour, A.) with the acquisition of 19 Apple computers; Spring 2019: $20,000 Student Technology Enhancement Program (STEP) grant for "Audio Annex Internet Connectivity and Wireless Access Point" (Gervais, M., Davie, W., Holmes, P., Salinas, P., & Latour, A.) with the acquisition of technology for Internet cabling and a wireless access point; Spring 2019: $2,235 Student Technology Enhancement Program (STEP) grant for "Phantom 4 Pro Maintenance" (Gervais, M., Lynch, D., & Beddok, V.) with the acquisition of extended warranties and coverage for the department's five DJI drones; Fall 2016: $37,150 Student Technology Enhancement Program (STEP) grant for "V. L. Wharton Hall 213 Classroom PC Computer Replacement" (Gervais, M., Davie, W., & Latour, A.) with the acquisition of 19 PC computers, laser printer, and networking upgrades; Fall 2016: $23,510 Student Technology Enhancement Program (STEP) grant for "Burke-Hawthorne Hall 250 Classroom PC Computer and Printer Replacement, SPSS Software Renewal, & Vision Pro Software Installation" (Gervais, M., Davie, W., & Latour, A.) with the acquisition of 19 PC computers, laser printer, screen sharing software, and software license renewal; Fall 2015: $36,000 to upgrade to SMART technology in Burke-Hawthorne rooms #250 and 117 with "Completion of SMART Classroom Technology in Burke-Hawthorne Hall #117 & 250" (Gervais) with the acquisition of computers, projectors, and screen for SMART instruction; Fall 2014: $6,280 for "Audio Instructional Lab Upgrade in the Burke-Hawthorne Annex" (Gervais and Davie) to upgrade software and equipment for the audio production labs in the Burke-Hawthorne Audio Annex.

Timeline / Implementation Schedule:

Spring 2025, beginning of semester: Place computer, printer, and software orders.
Spring 2025, mid-semester: Estimated arrival of items ordered.
Summer 2025: installation of all equipment.
Fall 2025, start of semester: new computers and equipment used in classes by faculty and students.

Budget Proposal

1.	**Equipment**	**$26,125: 19 Dell Optiplex 7000 series enhanced desktop PC computers ($1,375 each).** **$3,990: 19 Dell 24" HD monitors ($210 each).** **$950: 19 Dell SB521A Slim Soundbars ($50 each).** **$500: 1 Hewlett Packard M402dn laser printer.**
2.	**Software**	**$1,900: 19 SPSS Advanced Statistics, license upgrade for one year** **$3,000: Classroom Management software**
3.	**Supplies**	**$**
4.	**Maintenance**	**$**
5.	**Personnel**	**$**
6.	**Other**	**$**
TOTAL:		**$36,465**