

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

STEP Committee

Technology Fee Application

**ATLAS-ti Software for Undergraduate
Sociology, Anthropology and HDFS Students**

Title

Emily Blosser

Name of Submitter
(Faculty or Staff Only)

**Department of Sociology,
Anthropology, and Human
Development & Family Science**

Organization

Title: Assistant Professor of Sociology Date: July 12, 2024
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ABSTRACT (250 words or less):

The University of Louisiana became an R1 institution in 2021, designating it as a high research activity institution. The designation means that the University must continue to expand its research efforts and should involve more undergraduate students in research opportunities. The Sociology, Anthropology and Human Development & Family Science (HDFS) Department contributes to this goal through our undergraduate coursework and faculty-led research projects. However, our department needs software and equipment to effectively teach our students about qualitative research methods. Currently, we do not have qualitative software that we can use to train students, even though qualitative research is a part of our curricula. This STEP grant will be used to purchase 20 licenses for the qualitative software program ATLAS-ti for three years, as well as 8 iPads (ATLAS-ti can be used on an iPad), 8 cases/keyboards, and 8 mice for students to perform qualitative research and use ATLAS-ti outside of the lab.

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

The purpose of this grant is to purchase 20 licenses for ATLAS-ti software for three years, 8 iPads, 8 cases with keyboards, and 8 mice to help students gain more in-depth qualitative research experience and training. This grant will provide technology that can benefit all students who take sociology, anthropology and HDFS courses and wish to perform research, including majors and non-majors. Research methods courses are a part of our curricula and will help in our efforts to provide more in-depth research skills to support and further UL's Advance Student Research Program and enhance and foster our R1 status. Learning qualitative research will increase the quality of students' knowledge and marketable skills in research, creativity, and scholarship. It can also help us recruit students to the College of Liberal Arts and specifically to all three of our programs.

Why do we need the software?

Qualitative research is a key research methodology used in sociology, anthropology, and HDFS. Qualitative research focuses on understanding phenomena through detailed, narrative data. It explores the "how" and "why" of human behavior, often using interviews, focus groups, ethnography, and observational data.

Research is a main element of the training in our undergraduate programs. Furthermore, faculty members in all our programs have research grants and/or projects that often involve students. ATLAS-ti is a program that students can use for qualitative research projects to analyze, organize, and coordinate their analysis and data with team members. ATLAS-ti can be used on a desktop in our computer lab in Mouton 107, through a web browser, or on an iPad.

In my own discipline of sociology for example, undergraduate students are required to take a two-semester research methods sequence (Soci 301 and Soci 306/307 class and lab) where they are taught about quantitative and qualitative research methods. We have incorporated hands on lab work in these classes, but currently we do not have software available to students to teach them how to perform, manage, and organize a qualitative project. When we teach qualitative methods, students have to use Word or Excel as a substitute for a qualitative research program. Many students in our program also perform independent research projects, and the software and iPads would expand their ability to do high quality research. If we receive the grant, we can help students cultivate more in-depth qualitative research skills that are beneficial for future graduate work, as well as the job market.

b) **Projected lifetime of enhancement:** The projected lifetime of enhancement of ATLAS-ti is three years. The lifetime of the iPads is 5 to 7 years.

c) **Person Responsible:**

I will work with Allen Latour to implement, install, maintain, and operate this software. I will purchase licenses for ATLAS-ti for three years with this grant and ask for Allen's assistance in installing it in our lab in Mouton and keeping it up to date. I will oversee the iPads and will check them out to students who need them to work on assignments or independent research projects using ATLAS-ti. I will check in 2 times a year with Allen about updating and maintaining the iPads.

I have never received a STEP grant.

Budget Proposal

1. **Equipment** \$ 5000

8 Ipad/Total = \$2000

8 Apple care plans/Total = \$560

8 Logitech slimfolios and carrying cases (includes keyboards)/\$1900

8 mice \$540.

2. **Software** \$ 15,870.

20 ATLAS-ti licenses for three years.

 ATLAS.ti Shop

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ATLAS.ti Educational Multi-User License 20 Users - 3-Year Lease/Subscription (PC, Mac + Web)

\$15,870.00

Permits up to 20 concurrent users at any given time. Users can vary.

This is a yearly subscription product. After 36 month(s), a yearly fee of \$5,382.00 is due starting with the next billing cycle. You may cancel your subscription at any time.

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Total: \$15,870.00

Includes \$2,645.00 VAT (20% on \$13,225.00).



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3. **Supplies** \$

4. **Maintenance** \$

5. **Personnel** \$

6. Other \$

TOTAL: \$ 20,870