

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

STEP Committee

Technology Fee Application

Honors Media Computer Update

Title

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Name of Submitter
(Faculty or Staff Only)

University Honors Program

Organization

Title: Honors Media Computer Update
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ABSTRACT

In order to meet current industry standards and advancements in technology, this project seeks to replace two defunct computers in the Judice-Rickels STEP Lab with machines. The proposed replacement machines are equipped with high-performance hardware in order to facilitate students' needs for resource-intensive operations. They can still be utilized by all Honors students but will also be a new resource for students specializing in fields such as graphic design, videography, industrial design, animation, modeling, etc. Currently the Honors Program is comprised of over 1,400 students, 50% of whom are majoring in fields that require intensive computing operations.

With this new hardware, University Honors Program is also requesting funds for Adobe Creative Suite. CAD and Maya are provided by Autodesk for educational institutions free of charge and will be included in the software package installed on the two machines.

These resources would provide access for students without increasing financial burdens in a time which students may experience instability. With the assistance of the STEP Program, the Honors Program strives to nurture students' potential and support them through their academic careers, seeking to increase retention and fulfillment through education.

Description of Proposal

In an effort to update the University Honors Program's STEP Lab, this proposal would replace the two oldest computers in the lab with up-to-date machines. These machines are 2007 iMacs which have trouble simply running the operating system. Downgrading the operating system was proposed; however, the machines would not be compatible with the University's active directory, and students would not be able to access WIN accounts. Rather than rely on defunct technology and crude work-arounds, the Honors Program would prefer to take the opportunity to improve its available resources for students.

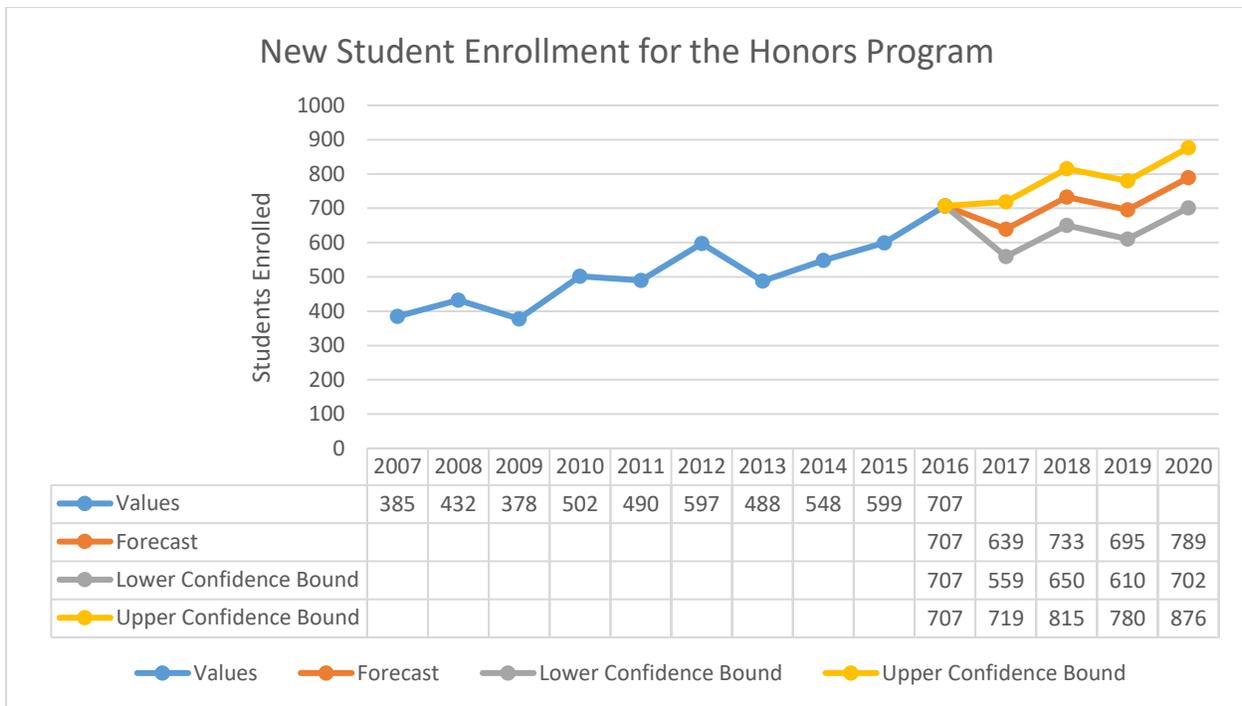
The updates to the Honors STEP Lab do not stop at the hardware, though. The University Honors Program provides students with a plethora of resources provided by the STEP program—a presentation room, a computer lab with printing (including posters), etc. In order to continue to provide an increasingly ubiquitous service to students, the Program requires major updates to its software suites. Its current software is in dire need of updating for students currently working toward careers as designers, videographers, engineers, photographers, and similar fields. As part of this proposal, the Honors Program is requesting STEP assistance with acquiring Adobe Creative Cloud. Autodesk software will also be used on these machines as well; Autodesk provides free education licenses for much of its software.

This proposal would provide reliable computers for over 1,400 Honors students, and at least 50% of those students would be able to utilize them for required specialized projects, including but not limited to Moving Image Arts, Graphic Design, Industrial Technology and Design, and Architecture.

Impact on the Student Body

Honors students would immediately benefit from these new, more reliable machines. For general use, there would be less wait time to use a computer and less difficulty while operating the computers. The current systems are prone to malfunctions, so at peak times people often have to wait for other machines to become available. For specialized use, this would give the entire Honors student body the chance to become familiar with the software suites included in this grant request. This not only actively supports students who require the software for their majors, but it also introduces these creation tools to students for presentations, visual works, etc. For example, the Honors senior project requires a poster that presents a topic visually.

Currently, over 1,400 students are enrolled in the University Honors Program. With current projections, the Program will enroll about 700 new students per year for the next four years with a lower range of confidence at 600 per year. By 2020, these machines will have provided 4,200 students the opportunity to create professional quality works in order to further advance and diversify their skill portfolios, exceed expectations for their classwork, and demonstrate at conferences the quality of education UL Lafayette provides its students. Below is a visual representation of future student enrollment.



Projected Lifetime of Enhancement

The projected lifetime of the computers would be approximately 10 years. Even if they fall below the standard for future design software at that point, they are still useful for general computing. Adobe's Creative Cloud is a subscription service that would be licensed for at least the lifetime of the machines. The Honors Program is requesting a three-year subscription to Adobe Creative Cloud to be granted by the STEP Program for this project. The Program will provide the license with its own funds after that time period. Additionally, AutoDesk provides most of its software free to educational institutions. As a result, its lifetime is limited only by AutoDesk's licensing policies.

Person(s) Responsible for:

- i. **Implementation:** Jason Suire, Administrative Coordinator IV, Honors Program
- ii. **Installation:** Computers will be provided by UL Lafayette PC Depot. Honors Administrative Coordinator will handle the installation of computer components on-site. Software installation will be confirmed with the University IT/IS Department and will also be handled by Administrative Coordinator on-site.
- iii. **Maintenance:** General maintenance on the computers will be performed by the Administrative Coordinator with support from the University IT/IS Department.
- iv. **Operation:** The computers will be located in Judice-Rickels Hall, Rooms 202 and 203, the Honors STEP Lab. They will be available to all Honors students. It will be supervised by the Administrative Coordinator. The lab will be locked after hours with a building key by staff.
- v. **Training:** The Administrative Coordinator assists students with all operations in the STEP Lab. Specialized support with software will be coordinated with the product's company or authorities at the University through the Administrative Coordinator.

vi. Justification of Items Budgeted

The specifications for the computer listed below are based on the machines currently used in Fletcher Hall's Visual Resource Center. They meet the recommended specifications for each application intended for the devices. The choices of software were based on recommendations by Donny Broussard of the VRC as well as student needs surveys.

Budget Proposal

1. Equipment	Dell OptiPlex 7040 MT Dell 23 Monitor - P2317H Intel Core i7-6700 Processor 16GB (2x8GB) DDR4 RAM 2133MHz nVidia GeForce GTX 745 500GB 7200rpm HDD Dell Limited Hardware Warranty Plus Service ProSupport Onsite & Technical Support 5 years	QTY 2	\$2707.60
2. Software	Adobe Creative Cloud (3 years)	QTY 2	\$1800.00
	AutoDesk Software Suite	QTY 2	\$0.00
3. Supplies			\$0.00
4. Maintenance			\$0.00
5. Personnel			\$0.00
6. Other			\$0.00
TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED			\$4507.60

Projected Timeline

Given the approval of the STEP committee, the University Honors Program will begin acquisition process of the specified equipment and software immediately. The projected timeframe for implementation will be up to one month afterward. The machines would be available for students by the beginning of Fall 2017.

Strategic Imperatives

This STEP Grant would help the University fulfill its criteria for its strategic imperatives through the following:

SI 1: Recruit, retain, and graduate outstanding students (undergraduate and graduate; traditional and nontraditional; transfer and returning adults).

- KPI 1: Implement and sustain student support to retain and graduate students.
- KPI 2: Expand recruitment of high-potential undergraduate and graduate students, which embraces diversity and enhances the university's image nationally and internationally, in both distance and traditional degree programs.
- KPI 3: Maximize opportunities for student enrollment and progression in traditional and distance education curricula, including strengthening transfer partnerships with community colleges.
- KPI 4: Improve student success through engagement in high impact practices.
- KPI 5: Expand and enhance incentives for graduate students' enrollment.

These two new computers would supply students with more professional engagement and give incentive to high-performing potential students to choose both the University and the Program. This would be a major recruiting tool during campus tours, Preview Days, and Geaux Days.

SI 2: Enhance student engagement in co-curricular activities through a vigorous, energetic, and culturally diverse university community

- KPI 6: Develop and institute a defined plan/model for co-curricular activity at UL Lafayette.
- KPI 7: Implement a co-curricular transcript for all students.
- KPI 8: Obtain Carnegie Foundation's Classification for Community Engagement recognition.

While two computers cannot sustain a large pool of students simultaneously for co-curricular activities, they do give each student the opportunity to not only use them for class activities but also any number of other projects, such as organization flyers, music, videos, etc. Student groups involved with Honors will be able to utilize these resources for their communities.

SI 3: Increase student productivity and success through engagement in mentored research, innovative projects, and creative endeavors.

- KPI 9: Expand support for graduate programs; develop new doctoral programs in areas of graduate excellence and new graduate programs in areas of undergraduate excellence.
- KPI 10: Promote a comprehensive chain of research mentoring for graduate students via student-faculty interactions, peer activities, and apprenticeships.
- KPI 11: Develop an undergraduate research initiative that will provide research opportunities for all undergraduate students, regardless of major.

Honors students would be able to use Adobe Creative Suite and Autodesk software for innovative projects in their studies as well as creative works that expands their skill portfolios and allow them to demonstrate their abilities academically, professionally, and personally.

SI 4: Expand and strengthen UL Lafayette's relationship with alumni and the community locally, nationally, and globally, in direct support of student achievement.

- KPI 12: Double the proportion of alumni giving to the University.

The more tools provided to students to excel during and after graduation that the Program provides, the more value students hold in their educations. With that in mind, the Honors Program seeks alumni involvement. Given the previous three strategic imperatives as the foundations of an outstanding college experience, the Program can expand its base of alumni to become involved with the University.

Previously Funded STEP Projects

The computer lab in Judice-Rickels Hall was initially created by a STEP grant in 2001. Since then, the following projects have been funded through the STEP Program, enriching students' lives:

- In 2008, a STEP grant for \$1500.00 was awarded for lab supplies.
- In 2009, a STEP grant for \$721.66 was awarded for a multifunction printer/copier.
- In 2010, a STEP grant for \$6738.24 was awarded to replace the six, old and malfunctioning Dell computers for the computer lab.
- In 2013, a STEP grant for \$6660.34 was awarded for a poster printer for the lab.
- In 2014, a STEP grant for \$4749.84 was awarded for additional duplex printers for the computer lab.
- In 2015, a STEP grant for \$8951.00 was awarded for converting the Patricia Rickels Library into a smart classroom with a projector for presentations, classes, meetings, and general student technology use.

We hope this STEP grant allows us to continue expanding our technological resources for students to fulfill our goals for the program.