

# University of Louisiana at Lafayette

STEP Committee

Technology Fee Application

Update of a STEP Classroom in the College  
of Nursing and Allied Health Professions


Lisa Delhomme  
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Name of Submitters

College of Nursing and Allied Health Professions  
Department of Allied Health  
Health Information Management Program

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Organization

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Dr. Gail Poirrier, Dean

Title: Update of a STEP Classroom in the College of Nursing and Allied Health Professions

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Department/College/Organization: Department of Allied Health, CONAHP

ABSTRACT: (250 words or less):

The faculty of the Health Information Management program continue to support the SGA's "vision for the use of technology to advance the quality and effectiveness of the teaching/learning process." Coincidentally, this vision very closely parallels that of the healthcare industry as a whole.

As the programs within the Department of Allied Health grow, so does the need for classrooms that complement the technological advances in the fields of healthcare and communication and the need for advanced methods of instruction needed to fully prepare the students in the present-day educational environment.

Wharton Hall, Room 504, is used by the students in the HIM and HSA programs, as well as by students from several disciplines enrolled in HIM 361, Medical Terminology. The present hardware was not provided by STEP funds and is old and outdated. There is no document camera.

However, we are currently faced with the challenge of accommodating the growing number of students in these disciplines and the need for technology that will support critical thinking activities and projects/assignments. Currently, approximately 215 students utilize this classroom/lab per semester. We expect this number to grow as HIM 361 becomes a required course in the Kinesiology curriculum.

Renovation of Room 504 in V.L. Wharton Hall into a STEP classroom will allow many more students access to the technology needed for success in the highly technical healthcare field.

### **Purpose of grant and impact to student body as a whole**

The faculty of the Health Information Management program continues to support the SGA's "vision for the use of technology to advance the quality and effectiveness of the teaching/learning process." Coincidentally, this vision very closely parallels that of the healthcare industry as a whole.

The purpose of this STEP Technology Fee Application is to have a STEP classroom installed in Wharton Hall Room 504 which is used by the Allied Health Department. The classroom/laboratory is in use most of each school day. Currently, approximately 215 students utilize this classroom per semester. We expect this number to grow as HIM 361 becomes a required course in the Kinesiology curriculum.

The HIM program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM). Accreditation assures academic quality in higher education. Program accreditation by CAHIIM is necessary for the graduates to take the Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA) certification exam. The achievement of the RHIA certification dramatically increases employment marketability. Graduating from a CAHIIM accredited program with an RHIA certification offers employers the assurance that the candidate has the professional knowledge and skills and has experienced a curriculum that is rigorous and relevant to today's electronic health record (EHR) environment.

The CAHIIM standards for accreditation address the requirement of adequate learning resources as follows:

"The sponsoring educational institutional must provide appropriate resources to support the learning experiences and achieve the program's goals and outcomes. These include but are not limited to student access to current technology, computers and relevant software, practice resources and other materials."

The classroom/lab is used each semester to instruct student in courses on data and project management systems, electronic health records, nomenclature and classification systems, HIM foundations, organization and administrative management, healthcare statistics, quality and risk management, and professional practice experience. The podium hardware, projector, and sound system is used by faculty to demonstrate advanced office applications, host virtual guest speakers, and instruct students on various applications in a simulation software known as "virtual lab". Beyond the benefit to students majoring in HIM, the lab is also used by the Health Services Administration (HSA) program to hold meetings, lectures, and administer exams. This equipment is also used in HIM 361, a course that serves students of several different majors.



The current computer and projector are no longer up to date. This classroom has never been equipped as a STEP classroom – hardware was purchased by the HIM program at various times and cobbled together.

To continue to insure that the graduates are adequately prepared to meet the challenges of the current technological environment, the faculty has introduced innovative teaching methodologies aimed at creating a more collaborative atmosphere for the students.

The faculty continues to strive to comply with the requirements of the accrediting agency. Thanks in part to previous STEP grants, the faculty has been able to expand the size of the computer lab to better accommodate students in order to increase the use of technology in both the classroom settings as well as during interactive lab courses.

Giving the students access to the newest technology will prepare them better for their responsibilities in their various professions.

### **Projected lifetime of enhancement**

The hardware is state-of-the-art and will be utilized in the classroom for approximately five to seven years.

### **Person(s) responsible for Implementation, installation, maintenance, and operation**

Implementation: Lisa Delhomme

Installation: Installation of the equipment would be taken care of by the vendor for the STEP classrooms.

Maintenance: Faculty of the HIM program

Operation: Faculty of the HIM program

### **Purpose and justification for items listed in the Budget Proposal:**

1. Equipment: A STEP classroom set up will enable Room 504 to become an interactive classroom.

**Previously funded STEP projects:**

The SGA has graciously funded seven previous STEP proposals. The step grant awarded in July 1999 provided funding for a notebook computer, a boxlight projector, and a SMART board. The second proposal was funded in January 2001 and funded four computers in the lab, MS Office 2000, SmartDraw software and supplies. The third STEP grant funded optical imaging equipment for the HIM classes. In the summer of 2002, a STEP grant assisted in the renovations of the HIM computer lab. With the grant awarded in January of 2004, we were able to purchase computers, a printer, and software. The STEP grant that was funded in January 2006 allowed us to purchase additional computers for the HIM lab as well as a new file server needed to support the new 3M equipment. In January, 2008 we were awarded a STEP grant to purchase some Virtual Lab applications from the American Health Information Management Association. In August, 2008 we were also awarded a STEP grant to create an instructional multimedia library for HIM students and it also included funds to convert V.L. Wharton, Room 504 to a media classroom. In Spring of 2013, a STEP grant for approximately \$15,000 was awarded for the addition of 9 new computers in the HIM computer lab.

The continuous upgrade of computer hardware and software is crucial to the success of the HIM program and ultimately the success of its students. We are grateful for the funds received from these STEP proposals. Without them, the needed learning resources would not be available.

## Budget Proposal

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1. **Equipment**
  - a. STEP classroom set-up \$ 42,000.00
2. **Software**

No additional software is required
3. **Supplies**

No additional supplies needed
4. **Maintenance**

No maintenance funds requested
5. **Personnel**

No additional personnel required
6. **Other**

**Total of Proposal: \$42,000.00**