UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

STEP Committee

Technology Fee Application

Equipment Enhancements: Graphic Design Studio
Title

Professor Kevin Hagan
Name of Submitter
(Faculty or Staff only)

College of the Arts, Department of Visual Arts
Organization

Date: January 7, 2019

Title: Equipment Enhancements: Graphic Design Studio

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Department/College/Org: College of the Arts, Dept. of Visual Arts

ABSTRACT (250 words or less):

The goal of the Graphic Design program is to prepare students for future employment by training them to use industry-standard software and hardware. The proposed updates will enhance the students' education by meeting current technological standards, and provide the means to address professional studio recommendations for continual training utilizing the latest techniques and applications. In addition, this equipment and software will allow the Graphic Design faculty to expand upon previous STEP grants by providing further resources for documenting work for recruitment and accreditation purposes. The Graphic Design profession continues to be increasingly competitive. Only students with the highest quality work receive primary consideration for introductory and advanced level positions. By utilizing the hardware and software obtained in this grant, students will have the means to access and utilize their files on studio computers to produce a greater variety of professional looking projects. This will enable UL Lafayette Graphic Design students become more competitive in the professional experience it provides.

Proposal Description

a. Purpose of grant:

The Graphic Design studio and the Graphic Design students will benefit from the following enhancements requested in the proposal: updated classroom lab computers and studio software to meet current technological standards. The funding of these equipment enhancements will facilitate the Graphic Design faculty in the instruction on techniques utilized in the Graphic Design profession, as well as continue to provide a means for students access their files on classroom studio computers to complete the mandatory in-class components of their projects.

Currently the Graphic Design lab computers are eight years old and are unable to meet the software requirements of the Adobe Creative Cloud software that is currently available. All students enrolling in the program are required to purchase Macintosh laptop computers, which are industry standard, with an Adobe Creative Cloud membership. The all the studio lab computers in the design classroom have equipped with Creative Suite 5 since 2011 as well, and are unable to be updated to the latest versions of the Adobe Creative applications without a Creative Cloud membership. In order to streamline the workflow from design to final, hardware and software updates are needed to be compliant with software the students have on their own computer. Instruction and lectures regarding software is essential to a program that teaches software in relation to design and layout. Confusion is created in the classroom when the student cannot logically follow along necessarily with the instructor due to changes in the versions of software. Updating the classroom software will also give the students the ability to access their personal files and continue to utilize the external peripherals required to produce, document, and present their work. The latest version of the software also provides new means for developing content for mobile and tablet devices. This will enable the Graphic Design faculty to develop, implement and present new course curriculum that focuses on emerging digital publications and interactive media. Additionally, the Graphic Design faculty is often called upon by the University to design and develop

promotional and recruitment materials. This will enable the faculty to continue their services for the University, College, and the Department. The ability to develop and create these designs greatly impacts the visibility of the University on local, state, and national levels.

When funded, this STEP Grant will allow the Graphic Design Studio to:

• Replace several of the classroom lab computers with new systems capable of running current and future software for presentation, printing, and general usage.

• Contribute to the professional development of both the student body and faculty.

• Provide a means in which students may utilize their files on classroom studio computers and use additional studio lab technology.

• Graduate students with the latest knowledge and skills to be competitive within their professional field of study.

• Provide the University, College, and Department with means to add additional visual documentation of student work for accreditation and recruitment purposes.

Impact to student body as a whole:

The professional equipment listed in this grant will have a great impact on both current and future students. Current students will excel by being able to access their files and utilize lab equipment to develop professional projects for presentation to future employers. Additionally, prospective students and their parents will be able to see the commitment the University of Louisiana at Lafayette has in maintaining its educational resources. The Department of Visual Arts continually produces students of the highest caliber in all studio areas, and this is achieved in part by the essential funding of equipment they depend on for learning. The Graphic Design curriculum in itself is the largest of the concentrations in the Department of Visual Arts, with enrollment always being at a maximum in VIAR 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 409, 410, 445 and 446. Additionally, the Department has added a new course, Graphic Design for non-majors,

for those who want to learn the basics of the profession. Therefore, it is essential to our students to have access to the most up-to-date equipment to prepare them for their future profession. The funding of this grant will provide the tools and the technology necessary to accomplish this, and thereby allowing UL Lafayette to continue its tradition of graduating students with the skill sets that can only be achieved through hands-on experience.

B. Projected lifetime of enhancement

The hardware will last approximately five years and the software will be renewed for four additional years, beyond the initial funding year, for a total of five years.

C. Person(s) responsible for implementation, installation, maintenance, operation and training.

The equipment will be located in room 307, Fletcher Hall, in the Department of Visual Arts. The room is locked and the computers will not be accessible when classroom is locked. Professor Hagan will install and maintain the equipment. Professor Hagan has over twenty years of experience in the installation and maintenance of computer equipment. Prior to Professor Hagan's employment at UL Lafayette, he was the studio lab technician for the graduate Graphic Design and Printmaking computer labs at Louisiana State University for three years where he setup and repaired all computer related equipment. If at any point additional assistance should be needed, Donny Broussard, Director of the Digital Media Resource Center, will be available to help.

D. Budget

1. iMac Pro with AppleCare Protection Plan

Currently, the Graphic Design faculty is unable to teach current and emerging application technology due to outdated hardware and software. The current systems used do not have sufficient processing power, RAM, or graphic processor power to effectively run current and future updates from Adobe's Creative Cloud. The new

software RAM requirements, alone, far outstrip the capabilities the current computer, and therefore it is imperative that it is replaced in order to utilize the software. These systems will be custom ordered with specifications to anticipate future software demands over the next several years. By replacing the current computers used for Graphic Design studio the faculty will then be able to effectively demonstrate the current software that the students are required to use.

Quantity: 4 **Total: $5, 319.00 each (not including any tax/shipping)**

2. Adobe Creative Cloud membership

All students concentrating in Graphic Design are required to purchase their own membership to the Adobe Creative Cloud (Adobe CC). This membership allows each student to have access to all Adobe products for the yearlong contract of their membership, and provides them with continual updates to the latest software versions at no additional charge. However, when the students need to transfer their files to work on the classroom studio computers and equipment, or when the faculty need to demonstrate current design production techniques utilizing student files on the classroom projector computer, the files are unable to be accessed on the older software installed on the systems. In order for our students to open and use their files on the classroom, and provide the faculty with the means to teach current software and continue accreditation documentation, a Creative Cloud membership must be established.

Quantity: 4 Seats for 5 years ($288 per license, per year) **Total: $5, 760.00**

Equipment

Quantity	Item Description	Cost Per Unit	Total Cost
4	iMac Pro with 64GB RAM and 1TB SSD Hard Drive and AppleCare+ Protection Plan	$5, 319.00	$21, 276.00

Total $21, 276.00

Software

Quantity	Item Description	Cost Per Unit/ Per Year	Total Cost
4	Adobe Creative Cloud Membership	$288 (1 year license)	$1, 152.00

Maintenance

Quantity	Item Description	Cost Per Unit/ Per Year	Number of Years	Total Cost
4	Adobe Creative Cloud Membership (Value Incentive Plan)	$288.00 (1 year license)	4	$4, 608.00

Total Budget Proposal

Length of Implementation:	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years
1. Equipment	$21, 276.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
2. Software	$1, 152.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
3. Maintenance	$0.00	$1, 152.00	$1, 152.00	$1, 152.00	$1, 152.00
TOTAL:	**$22, 428.00**	**$1, 152.00**	**$1, 152.00**	**$1, 152.00**	**$1, 152.00**

GRAND TOTAL: $27, 036.00

Previously funded STEP projects:

Kevin Hagan was awarded a STEP grant in 2018, which has enhanced the learning and resource capabilities of the studio. The replacement of the previously malfunctioning laser printer has facilitated classroom project production and proofing of files. The impact of the funding is still ongoing.