

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

STEP Committee

Technology Fee Application

**H.L. GRIFFIN 307 Computer Classroom
PC Replacement**

Title

Sheri Lazare and Allen Latour

Name of Submitter
(Faculty or Staff Only)

Department of English

Organization

Title: Senior Instructor Date: 01/15/2024
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Department/College/Org: English

ABSTRACT: The purpose of this STEP grant is to replace the PCs in the STEP computerized classroom used by the English Department, Moving Image Arts, and Engineering in H.L. Griffin 307. The current computers were installed in Summer 2015 and are more than eight years old. Many classes needed to be moved from the room because the computers aren't fast enough to use for classes. They are increasingly prone to hardware problems and often run slow due to software upgrades that require up-to-date technology. HLG 307 is one of only two computerized classrooms in the English Department, and the room is heavily used by advanced writing classes, especially English 365 (Technical Writing), a required course for 42 different majors, and all of UL-Lafayette's computer science, kinesiology, engineering, and pre-Med biology majors, the Moving Image Arts (MIA) program for video editing, and PhD graduate students' comprehensive exams. This is upward of 800 – 1000 students a semester. Finally, Engineering will be using the classrooms while the new building is built, adding an additional possible 500-900 students and faculty.

Purpose of grant and impact to student body as a whole

This grant will replace the 28 PCs in H.L. Griffin 307 STEP Smart Classroom and upgrade the Netop Classroom management software.

H. L. Griffin 307 is one of two heavily used computerized classrooms in the English Department. 307 is used primarily by advanced writing classes, such as ENGL 365 and 360. Each Fall and Spring between 6-10 sections of ENGL 365 (Technical Writing) are offered with nearly 400 students enrolling. A required technical writing course for students in 42 degree programs on campus including all computer science, kinesiology, engineering, and pre-Med biology majors, English 365 prepares these majors for the communication tasks necessary for professional success in a technical and business environment. Students frequently work on drafts of various documents in class and do peer editing exercises that require access to word-processing. This class is especially dependent on the lab, since the focus is to teach students of various majors how to effectively conduct written communication in a multimedia environment, from composing resumes to PowerPoint to building their own websites. In-class presentations are required.

Along with English Classes, this lab is used by MIA (Moving Image Arts) classes, with an average of 6-8 classes and up to 400 students per year. These students use the lab to edit video projects, which is becoming increasingly difficult with the age of the current hardware. In addition to classes, as many as 40 English PhD exams each year are administered in this lab. Many online teachers also use the rooms on the weekend for workshops, and administering class exams for students who cannot afford the online exam proctor costs. Finally, the rooms are currently used to facilitate English department, College of Liberal Arts, and University wide based trainings benefiting both students and staff.

Additionally, while the Engineering building is being renovated and the new building built, 200-300 engineering students will utilize the classroom for classes. Which classes is still being determined.

Vision-Pro by NetOp is used by instructors to remotely control the computers in the classroom environment. The software is used for in-class collaboration and peer editing and also allows the instructor to lock down the computers to create a secure testing environment.

The PC's in HLG 307 are currently 8.5 years old, and the warranty on them has expired. In keeping with the 5-year life cycle plan for computers on campus these PC's need to be replaced. Due to the age of these computers internal components are prone to failure at this age and when they fail it will reduce the number of working machines for classes to utilize for instructional and testing purposes. In addition to the hardware failing, these PC's are running Office 2016, which Microsoft has replaced by Office 365 several years ago. Replacing these machines will resolve this issue and allow students to use newer software, which is being used in the work place, better preparing them for future careers.

Projected lifetime of enhancement: 5-6 years

Person(s) responsible for

Implementation: Allen Latour, the Director of Instructional Technology for the College of Liberal Arts and Austin Champagne, the Technology Support Specialist for the College of Liberal Arts

Installation: Allen Latour, the Director of Instructional Technology for the College of Liberal Arts who and Austin Champagne, the Technology Support Specialist for the College of Liberal Arts

Maintenance: Allen Latour, the Director of Instructional Technology for the College of Liberal Arts and Austin Champagne, the Technology Support Specialist for the College of Liberal Arts

Operation: English Department faculty and their students will utilize this equipment.

Computer labs in 106 and 307 are used to administer to MIA (Moving Image Arts) classes, with an average of 6-8 classes and up to 400 students, and as many as 40 English PhD comprehensive exams each year. The Advanced Writing classes also use the computer labs, with upward of 800+ students. Many online teachers use the rooms on the weekend for workshops, and administrating class exams for students who cannot afford the online exam proctor costs. Finally, the rooms are currently used to facilitate English department, College of Liberal Arts, and university-based trainings benefiting roughly 250+ a semester, and over 500+ a year.

A required technical writing course for students in 42 degree programs on campus including all computer science, kinesiology, engineering, and pre-Med biology majors, English 365 prepares these majors for the communication tasks necessary for professional success in a technical and business environment.

Budget Proposal

1.	Equipment	\$ 56,000	28 Enhanced Dell Optiplex 7000 Desktop PCs (Standard configuration)
2.	Software	\$ 3000.00	Vis Pro by Netop
3.	Supplies	\$ 0	
4.	Maintenance	\$ 0	
5.	Personnel	\$ 0	
6.	Other	\$	
TOTAL:		\$ 59,000	

Previous funded STEP projects:

STEP has funded all of the computers, software, and networking equipment for the English department computer lab classrooms in H.L. Griffin 106 and 307. STEP has also provided for the Department's STEP SMART classrooms in H.L. Griffin 201, 202, 204, 321, and 318.

English Department faculty in collaboration with the College technicians have written proposals for the majority of the STEP-funded grants for computerized and SMART classrooms over the last fifteen years.

Allen Latour

- Spring 2023: Communication Department Mac Lab Update
- Fall 2022: Improving Wi-Fi in Burke-Hawthorne Hall
- Spring 2022: V.L. Wharton Hall Editing Suite Computer Replacement and Distance Learning Access
- Summer 2020: Burke-Hawthorn Hall Computer Lab Computer Replacement for Remote Learning
- Spring 2019: Audio Online Instruction and Annex Wireless Access Point
- Fall 2018: Two SMART Classrooms for the Department of English
- Fall 2018: H.L. Griffin 106 Computer Classroom PC Replacement
- Spring 2018: Two SMART Classrooms for the Department of English
- Spring 2018: HLG 106 & 307 SMART Transformation
- Fall 2017: Two SMART Classrooms for the Department of English
- Fall 2017: Cognitive PSYC Instructional & Experimental Lab Upgrade
- Spring 2017: HLG 315 SMART Transformation
- Spring 2017: Modern Languages (MODL) TEC Classrooms
- Spring 2017: Smart Classroom Equipment for HL Griffin 422 Auditorium
- Spring 2017: Two SMART Classrooms for the Dept. of English
- Fall 2016: Burke-Hawthorne Hall 250 Classroom PC Computer and Printer Replacement,
- Fall 2016: V. L. Wharton Hall 213 Classroom PC Computer Replacement
- Fall 2016: Two SMART Classrooms For the Dept. of English
- Fall 2016: MODL TEC Classrooms
- Spring 2016: Communication Department Mac Lab Update
- Spring 2016: History, Geography and Philosophy TEC Classrooms
- Fall 2015: Completion of SMART Classroom Technology in Burke Hawthorne Hall
- Spring 2015: New PSYC Instructional, Testing, & Experimental Lab Upgrade
- Fall 2014: H.L. Griffin 307 Computer Classroom PC Replacement
- Fall 2014: PSYC Instructional, Testing, and Experimental Lab
- Spring 2013: FGM 101 Interactive Classroom Enhancement