Call for Proposals: Experiential Learning Projects Grants

Application Call

Description

Experiential Learning (EL; find relevant definitions here), is an active form of learning and teaching pedagogy that has a long-lasting impact through hands-on experiences that contribute not only to more productive learning outcomes but can help create a sense of place, belonging, and connectivity to campus and our community. Sometimes, however, truly innovative and radical EL ideas can be challenged by campus structures, such as cost-center models, competition over student credit hours, and an unwillingness to invest financially in a project or collaboration that has not yet been proven effective.

This grant is administered by the *Promote Experiential Learning* strategy work group associated with the 2025-30 Strategic Plan: Igniting Opportunity. The grant seeks to provide an exploratory opportunity for campus and community collaborators to realize radical, innovative, creative, and novel ideas about what EL can be at Missouri State. The goal of this fund is to support EL opportunities that would otherwise not be available to students.

We will not consider proposals for projects that are already ongoing. This grant funding is meant to support new initiatives and projects, especially those that may require proof of concept to garner full support from a campus unit. We enthusiastically encourage interdisciplinary, cross-disciplinary, and collaborative projects that connect units across campus and/or connect campus with community partners.

Timeline

- Applications are due **December 12, 2025, by 11:59 p.m. CST**, and awardees will be notified by December 19.
- Projects must be implemented and funding completed in Spring 2026 and/or Summer 2026 term(s).
- Funds are provided as part of the University's Strategic Plan Implementation efforts. Results will be monitored so that successful grants may be leveraged for future funding opportunities.

Who Can Apply?

All full-time staff and faculty members who are in positions to work directly with students through credit-bearing courses are eligible to apply. The Principal Investigator(s) (PI) must be affiliated with a campus unit. Teams are encouraged to apply, though one or two PIs who will be ultimately responsible for the grant and its implementation must be identified. This eligibility includes academic units, but also campus other units with direct connection to potential credit-bearing EL opportunities (e.g., the Library, Service-Learning, or the Digital Humanities Lab). Remember, collaborative projects are strongly encouraged—be they between units on campus or with community partners. If you are working with community partners (e.g., non-university personnel), at least one PI must be affiliated with a campus unit to which the award would be dispersed.

Q&A Session
Interested in applying, but want to learn more? Join members of our work group for an informal Q&A session via Zoom on **Tuesday, November 18 at 4:00 p.m.** (Zoom link here.)

Application Form Components
(find the live form here)

1. Primary Investigators/Collaborators (up to 2 PI's) - name, email, unit/affiliation [at least 1 PI must be a Missouri State faculty or staff member]
2. Additional Team Members (no limit) – names, emails, units/affiliations
3. General Description (no more than 500 words): Include here a description of your project, outlining parties involved, experiential learning activities, and learning outcomes/goals. Please do not duplicate information here that will be entered in other sections below.
4. Public Affairs: How does your proposal center our Public Affairs mission and its pillars of Cultural Competence, Ethical Leadership, and Community Engagement?
5. Sustainability: This grant is meant to be exploratory seed money to test out an innovative idea that has the potential to become an embedded part of the academic experience. Identify here a concrete plan for future implementation and sustainability, presuming a successful beta test.
6. Students & Curricular Engagement: How does your project involve students, which students will have the opportunity to be involved, and how will it benefit them? How is your project connected to coursework (identify specific courses).
7. Innovation: How is your project unique and innovative? Speak to the novelty of your proposed collaborations, opportunities, pedagogies, etc.
8. Budget: Provide a detailed, line-item budget. This fund can award up to $25,000. We will consider proposals requesting funding up to $25,000—if your budget exceeds this, you must show evidence of matched funding from another source. Multiple awards of lesser amounts may be given priority, all things being equal. Identify one budget number (FOAP) where the money, if awarded, will be ultimately dispersed. Only one account may be identified. If your budget requires cost-sharing you should build this into your plan.
Include entry for required FOAP and unit financial officer or similar contact.
9. Letters of Support or Other Evidence (not required): Upload here letters from community partners showing their willingness to be partners and collaborate with you on this project, including matched funding if that is part of your budget. You may include here letters of support from community partners who may speak directly to the impact of your project. AUL's and Deans will have an opportunity to provide feedback through dynamic forms and thus they should not submit letters of support here.

For approvers only:
Please comment on the viability of the proposed project and comment specifically, to the extent you are able, on the potential sustainability of this project, presuming a successful beta test.

Rubric

Review Area	Points Possible	Qualitative Comments
Viability and Sustainability of Project	____ / 10 points possible	
Authentic Connection to Public Affairs Mission	____ / 10 points possible	
Impact on Students	____ / 10 points possible	
Collaborative Nature of Project	____ / 5 points possible	
Innovation, Creativity, Novelty	____ / 5 points possible	
Realistic Budget	____ / 5 points possible	
Overall Quality of Submitted Proposal (e.g. professional presentation, complete, etc.)	____ / 5 points possible	
Evidence of Community Support or Willingness to Partner—only if applicable (qualitative only)		
Other Observations (qualitative only)		
Total Score (out of 50)	____ / 50 points possible	
Feedback for Applicant(s) (optional)		