

**USC SUSTAINABILITY ACROSS THE CURRICULUM INITIATIVE:  
Program Development Grants  
Office of Academic Programs, 2022-2023**

In collaboration with the USC President's Working Group on Sustainability, the *Sustainability Across the Curriculum* program development grants invite applications for funding towards new courses and programs that focus on sustainability.

USC's mission works to cultivate engaged human beings who are empowered to have a positive impact on society. To this end, an understanding that sustainability presents one of society's greatest challenges is essential. Sustainability is not just about the environmental effects of climate change, resource depletion, food production, waste generation, biodiversity loss, etc., but also how these factors intersect with and affect people and societies. We depend on healthy ecosystems for our survival, but a sustainable world will not be attainable unless these benefits extend to all. Indeed, moving forward, the signature focus of USC's sustainability efforts will be the intersection of sustainability with issues of social justice and diversity, equity, and inclusion.

As the concept of sustainability cuts across many disciplines in both content and practice, the aim of these grants is to encourage the development of expanded sustainability content through all disciplines at the university. There are three grant opportunities:

**GRANT TYPE 1:** Integrating Sustainability into Existing Courses

**GRANT TYPE 2:** New Sustainability-Themed Course Proposals

**GRANT TYPE 3:** New Sustainability Minors, Graduate and Undergraduate Certificates

**GRANT TYPE 4:** Revision or Update of Existing Programs

Please note that for the 2022-2023 iteration of this funding opportunity, awards will be open to **both undergraduate and graduate programs**.

**GRANT CATEGORIES**

**GRANT TYPE 1: Integrating Sustainability into Existing Courses**

Two application categories within this grant type are available:

"Course Instructors": enthusiastic faculty from across the university teaching any course, with priority given to those who are currently teaching medium-to-large enrollment classes and courses that adopt the signature focus at the intersection of sustainability and issues of diversity, equity and inclusion. This grant may be used to modify existing courses toward the creation of new sustainability minors.

"Development Partners": faculty from the university with expertise in a range of sustainability issues eager to assist with the development of substantive, sustainability-related course material.

Once paired, “course instructors” and “development partners” will work together to determine what type of instructional material and desired sustainability concepts/competencies the students will learn; create appropriate learning outcomes, assignments, and course materials; and assess program outcomes. Any materials created should have the ability to be delivered in an online format, as well as in person.

Award amount: \$5,000 will be allocated in course development funds for each collaborative project, with \$3,500 going to the course instructor and \$1,500 to the development partner.

### **GRANT TYPE 2: New Course Proposals**

Applications are invited by faculty who want to develop new undergraduate courses that focus on sustainability explicitly (sustainability-focused courses) or that incorporate sustainability challenges throughout in their approach to disciplinary material (sustainability-inclusive). Priority will be given to proposals that reflect the signature focus at the intersection of sustainability with issues of diversity, equity and inclusion, but all applications will receive full consideration. Courses that utilize experiential learning (such as research, travel, service learning, etc.) are also encouraged.

After receiving the award, faculty should spend the following academic year continuing to develop the course syllabus, content and assignments, and moving their course through the University Committee on Curriculum process. In accepting the award, we ask that faculty commit to offering their new course in at least three of the next five years.

Award Amount: \$10,000 will be allocated in course development funds for each new course being developed.

### **GRANT TYPE 3: Sustainability Minors, Graduate Certificates and Undergraduate Certificates**

Applications are invited by departments and programs interested in developing a new minor, graduate certificate, or undergraduate certificate on material that explicitly focuses on sustainability through a disciplinary or inter-disciplinary lens.

New minors and graduate certificates may incorporate existing courses but must also feature newly developed content.

We are also interested in receiving proposals for “Undergraduate Certificates.” These are new credentials currently under development at USC that will consist of no less than 12 units of coursework with a strong thematic and interdisciplinary focus. Practical and solutions-focused proposals on sustainability are especially encouraged. Applicants will be partners in helping to develop a robust undergraduate certificate concept.

After receiving their award, program development teams should spend the following academic year continuing to develop their minor or certificate program and moving their proposal through the University Committee on Curriculum process. In accepting the award, we ask that departments or schools commit to launching the new minor or certificate within the next three years.

Award Amount: Variable, depending on proposal. Academic Programs will work with the proposing team to determine appropriate funding and distribution of that funding among the team. Funding is intended to support revision of existing courses, new courses, and faculty members leading those efforts.

#### **GRANT TYPE 4: Revision or Update of Existing Programs**

Applications are invited by departments and programs interested in revising existing majors, minors or graduate programs to prioritize material that explicitly focuses on sustainability through a disciplinary or inter-disciplinary lens. In accepting the award, we ask that departments or schools commit to implementing revisions within the next three years.

Award Amount: Variable, depending on proposal. Academic Programs will work with the proposing team to determine appropriate funding and distribution of that funding among the team. Funding is intended to support revision of existing courses, new courses, and faculty members leading those efforts.

#### **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

**Existing Course Instructors (Grant Type 1):** Full-time instructors of any class in the university are eligible to apply.

**Development Partners (Grant Type 1):** Full-time and part-time instructors and research faculty from any discipline in the university are eligible to apply.

**New Course Grants (Grant Type 2):** Full-time instructors from any Department or School at USC are eligible to apply.

**New Minors, Graduate and Undergraduate Certificate Grants (Grant Type 3):** Faculty from any discipline in the university are eligible to apply, including teams within departments/programs and interdisciplinary teams that cross departments/programs/schools. The individual submitting the application on behalf of the team should be a full-time faculty member and should seek to attain the requisite approvals to implement new curriculum within their school or unit.

**Revision or Update of Existing Program Grants (Grant Type 4):** Faculty from any discipline in the university are eligible to apply, including teams within departments/programs and interdisciplinary teams that cross departments/programs/schools. The individual submitting the application on behalf of the team should be a full-time faculty member and should seek to attain the requisite approvals to implement curriculum revisions within their school or unit.

## **NOTIFICATION AND TERMS OF AWARD**

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Funds will be distributed either to faculty via payroll (subject to all applicable wage taxes and deductions) or deposited into faculty's university research accounts. We encourage applicants to consult with their business office and/or Senior Business Officer on questions relating to account setup and other school policies and procedures.