The Program Learning Research (imProve) Grant supports programs interested in:
- Developing new student learning outcomes for an academic degree program
- Designing reliable and valid measures for assessing one or more student learning outcomes.
- Hosting a retreat for thoughtful reflection of student learning outcome assessment results.
- Designing curricular interventions for program improvement, rooted in strong assessment results.

In 2020, a single $10,000 imProve OR multiple <$10,000 imProve grants will be awarded

The imProve grant is managed by the Office of Academic Assessment; the grant review and selection panel is drawn from the University Assessment Council (UAC).

The imProve Grant Request for Proposals

Award winner will be announced early Spring 2021. Project are expected to start late Spring 2021 or early Fall 2021 and completed during the 2021-22 academic year.

The purpose of the imProve grant is to encourage high quality programmatic assessment work through financial support of a selected project. Projects should directly benefit the program with an end goal of improving student learning **at the program level**. Banta, Jones, and Black (2009) reviewed 150 of the **best** examples of assessment in the nation AND only 6% of these "best" examples demonstrated learning improvement.

The strongest examples of high-quality assessment include three steps:

- Gathering quantitative data to tell a story about student learning (Prove)
- Identifying opportunities for program improvement (making a change)
- Re-assessing and ultimately proving that your change was indeed and improvement (improve)

Eligibility

An academic degree program from any college or school, with active students may apply for the imProve grant. Submission may be prepared by any faculty member on staff but must indicate how the grant will benefit the majority of program faculty.

Preference will be given to programs that can demonstrate a truly collaborative effort with a majority of faculty involved in the grant. It is recommended that programs have strong student learning outcomes, that are comprehensive of the discipline prior to applying for the imProve grant. All grants must focus on the *program* level (not the individual course level).

Permitted Use of Funds

- Consulting and travel expenses to bring recognized disciplinary assessment experts in to Auburn University to conduct workshops are fundable.
- Travel expenses to participate in off-campus conferences (workshops or other programs), which promote excellent assessment and improvement of learning, are fundable.
- Assessment instruments, such as, standardized tests, assessment software, video equipment, and other supplies that may be used to effectively assess student learning are fundable.
- Faculty retreats focused on assessment are fundable.
- Supporting undergraduate/graduate student labor related to assessment of student performance is fundable.

Prohibitive Use of Funds

- Faculty salaries (including summer term and release time) are NOT fundable.

Additional Resources Available

In addition to funding, awardees will have dedicated personnel support from the Office of Academic Assessment to complete their project

Disclosure of Other Sources of Funds

If the amount of funding to fully complete the project exceeds the limit of $10,000 the program must disclose matching or supplemental funding sources. All applications for funds from other sources for the proposed project or travel must also be disclosed. (See the budget section below.) The Office of Academic Assessment encourages programs to seek matching funds.

Final Reporting and Dissemination

Awardees will be required to share the assessment work completed as a result of winning the imProve Grant during the Spring UAC meeting OR write-up a brief learning improvement narrative, after completion of the project. The Office of Academic Assessment requests the programs provide their PPT slides and/or materials for the Office of Academic Assessment to keep as record, rather than requiring a final report.

We encourage programs to consider sharing their work with colleagues and peers on campus (CTT or similar event) and other external events (disciplinary conference or assessment conference).

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Submit **a single PDF document** including all the following. Each proposal must meet the following guidelines or **will not be considered for funding.**

- Application Form/Cover Page (provided with this RFP). Sign, scan and attach to PDF.
- An abstract of 200 words or less of the proposed project.
- A narrative description of the proposed project (no longer than five (3) pages).
    - Provide a brief introduction to the program (e.g., number of faculty, students, program identity)
    - State the outcomes of the proposed project in terms of its contributions to programmatic assessment and/or the improvement of student learning.
    - Describe the project.
        - Explain how the project will benefit your program.
        - Indicate how program faculty will be involved, indicating faculty names and roles
        - Indicate the specific course(s) or tools that will be involved.
    - Articulate what the expected final deliverable will be.
    - Discuss how the program plans to collaborate with the Office of Academic Assessment (if necessary).

Timeline

Describe the timeline and procedures the program will use to achieve the project objectives. Of note, the timeline should begin and conclude within a single calendar year. (Exceptions will be reviewed on a case by case basis).

Assessment and Dissemination of Effectiveness

Please discuss your project, what will you do with the funds? Reflect on how the funds will impact assessment in the program. Discuss any ways in which you plan to disseminate the results of the project.

Budget

Provide a detailed budget for the project with justifications for all expenditures. List any other sources of funds currently available and any other applications made for funds for the project.

For more information contact

The Office of Academic Assessment, assess1@auburn.edu 118 Office Suite – Auburn University – Auburn, AL 36849-560

TIMELINE

- Call for proposals - Fall semester
- Proposals are due by – December 11th, COB
- Review of Proposals –early Spring
- Dissemination of funds and use of funds – following academic year
- Presentation during University Assessment Council meeting – Spring Semester, once completed

Application Top Sheet

Date:

Program Name:

Project Leader/Point of Contact:

Campus Address:

Office Phone:

Email Address: @auburn.edu

Co-leader(s):

Project Title: (100 characters or less)

Total Amount Requested: $

Intended Project Start/End:

Signatures:

Project Leader:

Co-Leaders, If applicable:

Department Head or Chair: