Call for Proposals
The Blended Learning Initiative at Wellesley College

We invite faculty teaching courses in the humanities and interpretive social sciences to send us a proposal for a project in blended learning. The faculty member may wish to design a new course, overhaul an existing course, or develop a single modular unit or several units to facilitate a specific learning task for students.

“Blended learning” in this context is the use of technology to facilitate activities that enhance students’ learning during courses that include significant face-to-face class time. For examples of previous Blended Learning Initiative projects, see the Projects Gallery.

We hope that incorporating blended learning into courses will allow faculty to reexamine their teaching style, course design, and assumptions about student collaboration. Therefore, no specific approach or technology will be prescribed. Instead, the model adopted should be that which best suits the specific needs of a course.

Proposal Submissions

Proposal content should be developed based on the template below. A meeting with LTS staff to discuss project goals and development is strongly recommended, preferably before or soon after the proposal has been submitted. Please contact David O’Steen (dosteen@wellesley.edu) to set up this meeting.

We are currently accepting proposals on a rolling basis. Please send your completed proposal to Evelina Guzauskyte (eguzausk@wellesley.edu) and David O’Steen (dosteen@wellesley.edu).

Eligibility

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant supports work in the humanities and the arts. In addition, social scientists whose work is explicitly historical and/or humanistic and engages qualitative methodologies are eligible to apply. In defining the “interpretive social sciences” for this initiative, an example from the American Council of Learned Societies is relevant: “[…] proposals in the social science fields […] are eligible only if they employ predominantly humanistic approaches and qualitative/interpretive methodologies (e.g., economic history, law and literature, political philosophy, history of psychology).” Proposals are welcome for
courses at all levels of the curriculum. We also invite applications for team-taught courses in
the humanities/the arts and the sciences or the social sciences.

Faculty Support

All project proposals submitted will automatically be considered for a faculty stipend, and
each proposal is judged on its own merits. The amount of the stipend will range based on the
extent and the complexity of the project. Stipends range from several hundred dollars for
small-scale projects to $3,500 for full-length projects.

In addition to monetary support, faculty are invited to take advantage of support from LTS,
the Office of Institutional Research, and the Quantitative Analysis Institute. In particular, LTS
staff will work closely with interested faculty to help conceptualize, develop, and manage their
projects. Support will include instructional design, selection of appropriate technology, and
video recording and editing, among other tasks.

Proposal Template

Are you interested in designing a blended learning course or enhancing an existing course
through the innovative use of technology? Please send us a 1-2 page proposal that includes
the following information:

1. **Description of the project and pedagogical goals**
   ○ What specific teaching or learning challenge will this project address?
   ○ How will this blended learning methodology and/or these particular digital tools
     address that challenge and enhance your course?

2. **Basic information about your course**
   ○ Is this a new or an existing course?
   ○ When do you plan to implement this blended learning project? (e.g. Fall 2017)

3. **Your availability to develop the project**
   ○ When will you have time to develop this project in collaboration with LTS staff?
     (e.g. during the winter break, during the fall semester)

4. **Optional: Specific digital tools, platforms, or approaches**
   ○ What approaches or specific digital tools would you like to incorporate into the
     project? (e.g. digital zines; clickable digital texts; video essays, etc.)

5. **Optional: Budget**
   ○ What are the anticipated expenses for this project? These may include:
     ■ A number of hours of student research assistance
     ■ Funds for purchasing materials for course development (note: the grant
       excludes hardware purchases)
Any other expenses integral to the development of the blended learning component of the course

Faculty members are encouraged to consult with David O'Steen (dosteen@wellesley.edu) from LTS with any questions about technology and project design prior to submitting their proposals.

Send your completed proposal to Evelina Guzauskyte (eguzausk@wellesley.edu) and David O'Steen (dosteen@wellesley.edu).

Other Funding Opportunities

What other kinds of funding are available through the Blended Learning Initiative?

**Blended learning events**
In the past, we have co-sponsored events such as talks and workshops organized by faculty members about topics in blended learning, digital scholarship, and digital humanities. If you would like to bring a speaker to benefit students and colleagues in your field of study or the college audience more broadly, please apply to us for co-sponsorship.

**Faculty conference travel**
Funds are also available for faculty conference travel, as long as the purpose of attending the conference is explicitly related to blended learning, digital scholarship, and/or digital humanities. Examples of conferences for you could apply for funding include:
- The Bucknell Digital Scholarship Conference (linked from [this site](#))
- The [Blended Learning in the Liberal Arts Conference](#) hosted by Bryn Mawr

Requests to attend workshops or panels focused on blended learning/digital scholarship/digital humanities in one’s field of study can also be considered for funding.

**Other requests**
Other requests to support the development of blended learning projects will be considered on a case-by-case basis.