

Center for Faculty Development and Nexus Learning

CFDNL Pedagogy Grant: Call for Submissions Academic Year 2024 – 2025

CFDNL Pedagogy Grant Application

These guidelines apply to grant funding for projects that will begin in the **summer of 2024** and conclude on or before **June 30, 2025**.

Deadlines

- Applications are due **April 5, 2024**.
- Notifications sent in **late May 2024**.
- Grant funds initially available during the summer of 2024
- The grant project can be undertaken at any time in the funding year.
 - Grant funds must be used by **June 30, 2025**.
- Progress report due by **mid-January 2025**.
- Final report due in **early June 2025**.

Introduction and Background

The Center for Faculty Development and Nexus Learning (CFDNL) is excited to provide faculty across Thomas Jefferson University with the opportunity to re-design learning experiences, develop innovative curricula, explore new areas of applied research on pedagogy, and advance the core tenets of Nexus Learning.

Nexus Learning optimizes occasions for learners to actively participate in their learning, apply knowledge and skills, collaborate with others, and connect their learning experiences to the real world and to their future professions.

Nexus Learning is integrative. Nexus Learning prizes imagination and supports reflection on learning experiences to build on past experiences and to create connections to the future. It is marked by integration of knowledge across disciplines, as well as within and outside the learning environment – wherever learning happens: the classroom, the clinical workplace, the laboratory, the studio, the virtual classroom, or elsewhere. These learning environments should support a culture of innovation, exploration, synthesis, and discovery.

Nexus Learning is:

- Collaborative, connected, and inclusive;
- Authentic and reflects real-world practicality;
- Evidence-based;
- Engaged and active; and
- Infused with the Humanities and Sciences.

Funding Priorities

The priorities for the CFDNL Pedagogy Grants are:

- Conduct pedagogically-based research projects centered on Nexus Learning practices, activities and/or assessment of outcomes.
- Develop, model, and assess innovative ways of integrating the principles of Nexus Learning into the learning environment (i.e., virtual class, hospital, clinic, studio, laboratory, workplace).
- Document and disseminate current Nexus Learning practices at Jefferson to both on-campus and wider (external) audiences through workshops, publications, and/or faculty mentoring/development programs in order to increase awareness, understanding, and use of Nexus Learning methodologies and skills for a growing community of learners.

Examples of Projects That Meet Program Criteria

- Educational strategies that create inclusive and equitable teaching and learning environments.
- Re-design of an existing course, clerkship, or learning experience to embed Nexus Learning approaches based on documented research, and include an assessment plan to evaluate the effectiveness of the changes.
- New curriculum development and piloting.
- Action research in the learning environment to assess the impact of teaching/learning techniques (i.e., What worked? What didn't work? Why?).
- Best practices in mentorship and professional development. Such projects may include a seminar series, workshops, and collaborations by groups of faculty to implement faculty development proposals.

Interested applicants should direct their questions to **Dimitrios Papanagnou** (Dimitrios.Papanagnou@jefferson.edu), Associate Provost for Faculty Development, Health Professions Education and Scholarship, or **Chris Pastore** (Chris.Pastore@jefferson.edu), Assistant Provost for Faculty Development, Nexus Learning and Classroom Pedagogy.

Who May Apply?

We strongly encourage applications from faculty of all Colleges (full-time and part-time) across Thomas Jefferson University who believe they can make significant contributions to teaching and learning at Jefferson. Every project must have a full-time faculty member listed on the project proposal. Faculty applying for the first time are highly encouraged to submit an application.

Policies and Guidelines for Applications

1. **New this year:** Faculty who successfully received CFDNL Pedagogy Grant funding are only eligible to reapply after a total of two elapsed academic cycles. For example, if you received funding during the 2023-2024 cycle, you are eligible to reapply during the 2026-2027 cycle. A recent recipient is eligible to serve as a project mentor (see Item 6 in this section).
2. CFDNL Pedagogy Grant proposals must explicitly involve some or all elements of Nexus Learning as outlined in the introduction and the examples above.
3. Individual CFDNL Pedagogy Grants have a maximum budget award of \$3,000.
4. Teams of individuals may submit one application to work on the same collaborative project. The maximum grant award for a team project is \$6,000 per group application.
5. CFDNL Pedagogy Grant funds may be used to support any of the following non-salary expenses:
 - a. Supplies to support the proposed project (e.g., project-related software, educational materials). The grant may not be used to purchase computer hardware.
 - b. Small equipment and other reasonable expenses to support the project.
 - c. Conference or research travel connected to the grant project.
 - d. Student workers in summer and during the academic year.
6. Applications should include a statement that identifies a faculty mentor who has agreed to provide advice on the applicant's project. Mentors may include, but are not limited to, senior faculty members, external (i.e., non-Jefferson) faculty mentors, and/or faculty members who have previously been awarded a CFDNL pedagogy grant. While not able to apply for the current award cycle, faculty who have received funding within the last two years are eligible, and encouraged, to serve as faculty mentors on projects. While not required, prospective mentors may also submit a letter of support on behalf of the applicant.
7. Faculty with 9-month contracts are eligible for summer stipends. Summer stipends may not exceed \$3,000. Faculty with 12-month positions are not eligible to receive a stipend.
8. Grant funds must be spent by **June 30, 2025**. All requests for reimbursement must be processed by **June 15, 2025**. In the event that the faculty member is unable to complete the project or leaves the University, the unexpended funds will revert to the University.
9. If a summer stipend is paid to a full-time faculty member, that faculty member agrees to remain at the University as full-time faculty member in the subsequent fall semester.

Procedures for Applications

1. Individuals must apply for the grants on InfoReady:
<https://jefferson.infoready4.com/#competitionDetail/1927613>
2. Proposals must be submitted by **5:00 PM on April 5, 2024**. Questions about submitting through InfoReady should be directed to **Samantha Bruno** at samantha.bruno@jefferson.edu
3. Applications will be reviewed by the Jefferson's Committee on Educational Resources (JCER). Grantees will be notified with a decision in **late May 2024**.
4. Grant funding begins **in the summer of 2024** and ends on **June 30, 2025**.
5. Each proposal **must** include a letter of support from the applicant's chair or program director.
6. Additional letters of support may also be included. A letter of support from the project mentor is optional. Also, the applicant's Dean may provide a letter.

Application

Proposals should adhere exactly to the following directions and have all the following components. The Project Assessment is of special importance, as reflected by the points associated with that component.

Section 1 should not exceed 200 words, excluding title and author(s).
Sections 2 through 7 combined should not exceed a total of 1000 words.

1. *Project Title*

Author(s)

Abstract (maximum 200 words) (20 points)

- Purpose
- Rationale
- Goal(s)
- Project Implementation and Project Deliverables
- Project Mentor

2. *Explanation of How the Project Advances Nexus Learning (10 points)*

Identify the specific priorities this project addresses and discuss how this project advances Nexus Learning (as outlined in the introduction material, above). Be specific about how your project will expand our definition and understanding of our goals for student learning on campus.

3. *Literature Review (10 points)*

Address relevant conceptual and theoretical framework of your project, as well as related course work, research and/or literature. In this section you are demonstrating your knowledge of the topic.

4. *Specific Project Goals and Learning Outcomes (10 points)*

Please address/list the primary goals and objectives of the project and the intended learning outcomes (for you as a researcher, not student learning outcomes). This can be in bullet points and should include how you plan to execute the project.

5. *Description of Activities and Timeframe (10 points)*

Please describe specific project activities and your schedule/timeline. This can be bullet points and/or in the form of a table.

6. *Project Assessment (20 points)*

Please indicate how you will assess your project to determine if your goals and intended results for the project were met. Identify specific activities or measures you will use to document your assessment and your conclusions. Remember, the goals are about your Nexus Learning goals not the particular student performance goals or student achievement.

Identify specific activities or measures you will use to collect evidence of learning (that is measures of success for your project, and again, go beyond particular student learning goals to look at the project goals). The focus is on pedagogy and what you learned about teaching. The

focus should not be limited to what specific learners may have learned during your project. Instead, focus on what you learned about Nexus Learning pedagogy and effective teaching.

7. Documentation and Dissemination (10 points)

Describe how the project outcomes will be documented and shared with the University community, with specific consideration of how those outcomes might be used as a model to advance Nexus Learning by others. Preference will be given to projects with dissemination plans for both inside and outside the University. Potential papers, articles, presentations at conferences, and workshops held on campus or at conferences from this research should be stated in this part of the proposal. Recipients will be expected to present their work to the broader Jefferson community at Faculty Days 2025.

8. Project Personnel (required)

Describe the people involved in the project and their intended contributions. If the project involves several faculty members and student life professionals, list who they are and how they will divide and share responsibilities.

9. Budget Narrative and Worksheet (10 points)

Applicants must use the attached budget template to input their grant expenditures. The worksheet should be followed by a short budget narrative. The narrative should include a justification of the need for each requested faculty stipend as well as other budgetary line items. Any requested course release also should be explained in this section.

I. Personnel Expenditures	Projected Cost
Principal Investigator Summer Stipend (if applicable, see above)	
Co-Investigator(s) Summer Stipend (if applicable, see above)	
Other Participants	
II. Non-Personnel Expenditures	
Equipment	
Supplies, software, other:	
Travel (Transportation, Lodging, and Meals):	
Other (please describe in your budget narrative)	
Total	\$ 0.00
Grant Budget not to exceed \$3,000 (\$6,000 for teams)	

Grant funds must be spent by **June 30, 2024**. All requests for reimbursement must be processed by **June 15, 2024**. In the event that the faculty member is unable to complete the project or leaves the University, the unexpended funds will revert to the University.

10. Attachments (required if applicable)

Include all final reports from previously-awarded grants or explain why no final report was submitted.

Total Points for Committee Scoring Rubric = 100

Project Reports

A progress report will be due by **mid-January 2025**. A Final report will be due in **early June 2025**.

Recipients will be expected to present their work to the broader Jefferson community at the Jefferson Faculty Days Program (June 2025). Further dissemination plans will be regarded with favor by the reviewing committee. Possible dissemination strategies may include presentations at conferences, papers or articles for journals, and other means of sharing your results and recommendations. Recipients may also be asked to present their project progress in the middle of the grant cycle (December 2024 – February 2025) in a public forum facilitated by the CFDNL.

Grant recipients must file their assessment results and project documentation in a form that can be published on the Jefferson Digital Commons and the CFDNL website. The exact format of this report is left to the grant recipients. For example, the documentation could take the form of a paper, a report, or an interactive model. We encourage the use of visual media, such a photography or video, in the documentation.