Call for Proposals: W1 Curriculum Development Grants

Application Deadline: February 24, 2021

With support from the Provost’s Office, the Writing Across the Curriculum Advisory Committee calls for proposals for $3,000 first-year writing (W1) course development grants. These courses, which are capped at 16 and must be taught in fall or spring, meet the College writing requirement for incoming students. All continuing faculty are eligible to apply.

A chief objective of these grants is to support offering W1 courses across the curriculum so students may explore themes that interest them in potential majors or minors. Therefore, the committee especially encourages grant applications from faculty in the natural and social sciences, disciplines typically underrepresented in first-year writing courses.

The committee will award up to four grants on a competitive basis. Proposals may be for the development of a new course or for the substantial redesign of an existing non-W1 course. The committee will award grants to faculty who develop W1 courses that will be offered as a regular part of the curriculum, preferably annually and at least once every other academic year.

Interested faculty should review the “W1 Common Understandings” and the “W1 Student Learning Outcomes” (see colby.edu/writingprogram/curriculum) and use them as a reference in writing their proposals. Before applying, faculty should discuss offering a W1 course with their chair or director.

Interested faculty may direct preliminary inquiries to any member of the Writing Across the Curriculum Committee (see list, pg.2). Address application questions to Stacey Sheriff, Director of the Colby Writing Program at stacey.sheriff@colby.edu.

Please see the next page for the requirements and application.
W1 Grant Application Requirements

1. Complete and sign the application cover page.

2. Write a proposal memo (500 words or fewer) describing your course development plan or your non-W1 course redesign.

3. Have your chair or director sign the proposal endorsement section.

4. Submit application materials to Stacey Sheriff (stacey.sheriff@colby.edu) by February 24, 2021.

5. Submit the new or redesigned online course proposal for AAC by April 1, 2021.
   Note: this step is required even if the course will be listed under an existing course number.

6. Participate in a “Teaching Your New W1” workshop, which is designed to familiarize grantees with W1 expectations, techniques for helping students develop their writing and critical thinking, and strategies for responding to students’ writing. Dates are TBD in May and/or early August.

7. Participate in the annual college-wide W1 assessment reading (normally the last week of August).

Note: For a list of current and past W1 offerings, go to the “Academics” tab on MyColby. Do a curriculum search for W1s, using the drop-down menu for “W1/Writing-Intensive.”

2020-21 Writing Across the Curriculum Advisory Committee (WACAC):

Stacey Sheriff (stacey.sheriff@colby.edu) Director, Colby Writing Program, Asst. Professor of Writing

Ghada Gherwash (ghada.gherwash@colby.edu) Multilingual Writing Specialist, Incoming Director of the Farnham Writers’ Center (as of 2/1/21), Asst. Professor of Writing

Paula Harrington (paula.harrington@colby.edu) Director of the Farnham Writers’ Center (until 1/29/21), Assoc. Professor of Writing

Russell Johnson (russ.johnson@colby.edu) Associate Provost for Academic Programs, Professor of Biology

Kara Kugelmeyer (kara.kugelmeyer@colby.edu) Data and Science Librarian

Lindsay Mayka (lindsay.mayka@colby.edu) Asst. Professor of Government

Duncan Tate (duncan.tate@colby.edu) Professor of Physics
Spring 2021 W1 Curriculum Development Grant Proposal

Application Cover Page

Part I.

Applicant’s Name ____________________________________________________________

Faculty Title ____________________________ Department/Program ______________________

Campus Address ______________________________________________________________

Email ________________________ Extension _______________________

I propose to develop a new W1 course that will satisfy the W1 Common Understandings and attend to the W1 Student Learning Objectives. I understand that while the course may teach subject matter in my field, it also must incorporate specific strategies for teaching writing, including some direct instruction in class. If I am awarded a $3,000 W1 curriculum development grant, I agree to attend a W1 & Writing Across the Curriculum seminar for faculty grantees. In addition, I agree to participate in Writing Program assessment, which includes a late-August assessment reading and occasional faculty surveys. Finally, for the course described in Part III. below, I agree to submit an online course proposal to AAC by April 1, 2021.

______________________________________________   _______________________
Applicant Signature                     Date

Part II.

Endorsement of Department Chair or Program Director

By signing below, I agree that I have spoken with the applicant about their proposed W1 course and that this new course will be offered by my department or program as a regular part of the curriculum, preferably annually and no less frequently than once every other academic year.

_________________________________________________   _______________________
Signature of Department Chair or Program Director   Date
Part III.

Proposal Memo (500 words or fewer, not including supporting materials):

On a separate page, please provide a preliminary course title and brief description of the course’s theme. For a new or existing non-W1 course, please include: (1) plans for regular, direct writing instruction; (2) writing-related learning objectives; and (3) how this course will be an ongoing, regularly offered course in your department or program’s curriculum.

For an existing course, the proposal memo should include:
the course theme; learning goals (including those related to writing and research); the timing, grade weights, and nature of key writing assignments; and plans for direct writing instruction. The original course syllabus may include much of this information, and you need not restate items described in the syllabus you attach. Lastly, include a detailed summary of your proposed revisions to make the course a W1.

For a new W1 course, the proposal memo should include:
the course theme; learning goals (including those related to writing and research); the timing, grade weights, and nature of key writing assignments; and plans for direct writing instruction. You do not need a fully-developed syllabus, but please do map out the above information in a working syllabus outline or annotated list.¹

Please send cover page, chair’s/director’s endorsement, and proposal memo (Parts I. - III.) to:

Stacey Sheriff, Chair of the Writing Across the Curriculum Committee (stacey.sheriff@colby.edu)

Awards will be announced following review of applications.

¹ For sample W1 syllabi please contact Stacey Sheriff, Director of the Colby Writing Program at ssheriff@colby.edu.