



SCORE: STRENGTHENING THE CORE

FUND FOR INNOVATION IN GRADUATE EDUCATION

PROPOSAL INFORMATION



WHAT IS SCORE?

Graduate education at Stanford will maintain its excellence by ensuring that core graduate degree-granting programs are supported to pursue new educational possibilities. The SCORE (Strengthening the Core) Innovation Fund offers financial resources to academic departments to respond to challenges facing disciplines and departments. SCORE funds support faculty and graduate students in scrutinizing long-existing practices and testing new approaches in graduate programs.

Strengthening Stanford's core departments and programs is crucial for maintaining Stanford's preeminence in graduate education. Changing circumstances in universities and disciplines make thoughtful reassessment of graduate education an urgent priority. Among the emerging challenges are reconfigurations of disciplinary boundaries, shifting demographics of the graduate student population, and new technologies that change the way knowledge is developed and shared. Additional financial resources can support the reflection and experimentation necessary to respond effectively.

Academic departments and programs are invited to submit proposals for one-year or two-year projects. The development of proposals is intended to facilitate reflection and ongoing dialogue. A proposal should identify a **pressing challenge** and a **plan for addressing the issue**. Examples of projects include:

- rethinking curricular requirements in light of knowledge change in the field and related fields;
- teaching students to ask better questions, to take risks in their research, or to work collaboratively in new ways;
- reconsidering the preparation for doctoral students who will embark on academic careers likely to span the next three or four decades;
- better preparing doctoral students for non-academic career paths;
- experimenting with more extensive mentoring practices that include partners within and outside Stanford;
- rethinking primary objectives and requirements for the master's degree.

In the first year, up to six SCORE grants will be awarded. Up to three medium-sized grants will be awarded in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 per year. Up to three large grants will be awarded in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 per year. Funds allocated for the second year will be contingent on progress made in the first year.

SCORE leadership teams determine the scope of the proposal, secure broad support within the department, oversee the activities, and report the results.

The VPGE staff will be an ongoing resource for the department. For example, VPGE can assist with collection and analysis of data on a department’s graduate program. SCORE leaders may be convened occasionally by the VPGE to discuss ideas, successes, and challenges.

SCORE PROPOSALS

Graduate degree granting (master’s, doctoral and professional) programs and departments in any of the seven schools may submit a proposal. A proposal consists of two components:

1. **A letter of intent** (no more than three single-spaced pages) answering the following questions:

Which critical challenge will be the focus? Why is this topic timely and relevant for this discipline and department? What do you hope to achieve by the conclusion of the project?

What plan of action is proposed? What mechanisms for engaging the department as a whole in ongoing deliberation is envisioned? Recognizing that plans will evolve, what is the timeline for planning and implementation?

Who is leading the project? An effort of this scope requires broad-based faculty involvement. Including graduate students, and if appropriate, postdoctoral scholars, on the leadership team is highly desirable. Who is the SCORE coordinator? Who is on the leadership team?

How will you evaluate the success of your work? Which criteria do you propose for determining the effectiveness of the SCORE funds? What are your plans for collecting evidence?

2. **A brief budget request.** Budgets should reflect the activities initially projected during the project (one or two years). Requests may not exceed \$20,000 (medium-sized proposals) or \$50,000 (large proposals) per year.

SCORE funds can support a wide range of activities. Possibilities include conducting a curriculum review, creating new seminars or workshops, providing faculty development, hosting conferences that focus on cutting-edge practices in doctoral education, supplementing travel funds for students, enabling internships in the community, establishing mentoring networks, or purchasing new equipment for pedagogical innovation. Funds may also be used for departmental retreats, external consultants, site visits to other campuses, faculty salary or graduate student project assistants.

Budgets can be adjusted as project needs and activities evolve. Supplemental funds are not required, but should be indicated.

<p>Submit proposal to:</p> <p>In person to: Office of the VPGE Building 310, First Floor</p> <p>Electronically to: vpge@stanford.edu</p>	<p>Complete proposal includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name of department or program • Name and contact information for department's faculty project coordinator • Letter of intent • Brief estimated budget request
<p>Proposal deadline: Tuesday April 1, 2008</p>	

SCORE AWARDS

SCORE is a two year pilot program. Inaugural SCORE awards will be made on a competitive basis in the spring of 2008. Proposals will be reviewed by a faculty advisory committee. Up to six proposals (three medium-sized and three large) will be funded. Leaders of SCORE project teams may be convened occasionally by the VPGE to discuss ideas, successes, and challenges. Occasional narrative and financial reports will be expected. Funding for the second year is contingent on evidence of sustained activity and regular reporting.

If you have any questions, contact vpge@stanford.edu

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