

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Interdisciplinary Course Development Initiative

Submission Deadline: January 12th, 2026

Course Implementation: Academic Year: 2026-27

OVERVIEW

The Office of Interdisciplinary Studies invites faculty to propose innovative courses that address complex and multifaceted challenges—the "big questions" and "wicked problems" that transcend traditional boundaries.

Topical content can come from any area of study. For illustrative purposes only, example topics and themes include:

- Artificial intelligence and human identity
- Artificial intelligence and the changing nature of work
- Clean water
- Climate change and environmental sustainability
- Digital privacy, surveillance, and personal freedom
- Economic inequality
- Food systems, agriculture, and hunger
- Health disparities
- Mental health in the digital age
- Migration and refugee crises
- Misinformation and polarization
- Poverty and inequality
- Reading and writing in the age of artificial intelligence
- Religion, rights, and the secular state
- Systemic injustice

Financial Support is available for developing a new course or significantly modifying an existing course.

- \$5,000 new course development stipend (**3 credit hour course**)
- \$3,500 significant modification stipend (**3 credit hour course**)
- \$2,000 new course development stipend (**1 credit hour course**)
- Up to \$500 budget to support course development or modification of 1 or 3 credit hour courses (e.g., books, software, consultant).

COURSE PARAMETERS:

- Credit Hours: One- or three-credit hour courses
- New courses may be taught as (a) topics courses in departments or in college-level seminar courses (e.g., EHS 101; LAS 101) already listed in Bradley's course catalog or (b) in a newly developed course submitted for approval through the curriculum and regulations process.
- Significant modification of an existing course as evidenced by substantive change that requires course modification through the curriculum and regulations process. Courses should be modified so that they will fulfill (a) a requirement in the Bradley Core Curriculum, (b) a college-level requirement, and/or (c) a defined role within an academic program (e.g., capstone, required core, or designated elective).

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS:

Submit a 2- to 4-page proposal, double spaced, with the following subheadings:

1. **Instructor:** Name and department; course title; amount requested; estimated start/completion dates
2. **Problem and Scope:** Clearly articulate the "big question" or "wicked problem" your course addresses, demonstrating how it transcends traditional boundaries. If the course is being modified, describe the substance and scope of the change with an emphasis on how the modification relates to the large, multifaceted problem.
3. **Pedagogy and Academic Skills:** Briefly elaborate on specific learning activities and/or assignments designed to productively engage students in integrative learning (i.e., making connections across disciplines and transferring learning to complex problems). Pedagogical approaches for fostering integrative learning **could include one or more of** the following high impact practices: collaborative assignments or projects, critical inquiry in a seminar format, experiential learning in the community or field, or research.
4. **Inclusive Pedagogy and Student-Centered Design:** Briefly outline your approach to creating an inclusive learning environment that welcomes different perspectives and supports students from various academic backgrounds.
5. **Objectives:** Identify a core learning objective and briefly describe how you will assess it. The learning objective should be aligned with the nature of the course's focus on complex, persistent, meaningful questions and challenges.
6. **Sustainability--** Enrollment potential; Does the course align with curricular requirements (department, college, and/or university), accreditation standards, or program goals?

ELIGIBILITY:

Full time Bradley University faculty, regardless of rank or tenure.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated by an interdisciplinary committee based on:

- Breadth and significance of the identified problem; Evidence of genuine interdisciplinary nature requiring multiple perspectives. If modification, extent and substance of the modification in relation to the identified problem.
- Pedagogical approach for engaging students in integrative learning.
- Sustainability—Enrollment potential; Does the course align with curricular requirements, accreditation standards, or program goals?
- Specific strategies for creating inclusive classroom.
- Clearly defined objective and assessment.

EXPECTATIONS

Selected faculty will commit to:

- Delivering the course as proposed during the next academic year.
- Sharing successful practices and a brief reflection in writing to the Bradley University Interdisciplinary Studies Committee.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Submit proposals electronically to [email] with "Interdisciplinary Course Proposal" in the subject line. Include:

- Completed proposal (PDF format preferred)
- Current CV
- Brief (one to two paragraphs) letter of support from department chair

Send to: Derek Montgomery: montg@fsmail.bradley.edu The deadline for submissions is January 12th, 2026

Sponsored by The Office of Interdisciplinary Studies. *The Office of Interdisciplinary Studies at Bradley University brings students, staff, and faculty together across different fields and departments. We support innovative teaching, collaborative research, and community partnerships by creating opportunities and offering incentives to spark new ideas and connections.*

Questions? Contact montg@fsmail.bradley.edu