University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

<u>Course Release Opportunity for Proposal Submission</u>

The Internal Seed Funding Program offers a limited number of course-release grants for the Spring 2025 and Fall 2025 semesters. These grants are designed to support tenured and tenure-track faculty members pursuing substantial sources of external funding to support research activities. Eligible faculty members may be pursuing either one significant source or multiple smaller sources of external funding. Faculty who have received CROPS awards in the past are eligible to apply provided that they are proposing a distinctly new project or working with a new collaborative team, and have secured external grant support since their last award.

Successful applicants will receive a release from teaching one course during the specified semester. The Office of Research and Innovation will provide up to $6,000 towards instructional replacement costs. Successful applicants will also receive dedicated proposal development support from the Office of Research and Innovation.

Expected output

The expected output from the course-release opportunity is a grant submitted to an external funding agency with the faculty member in the role of the PI. It is expected that the proposal will be submitted within the semester when the course release is awarded or shortly after, depending on the grant deadlines. This grant may support work on a first submission or a resubmission of a revised proposal.

Evaluation criteria

A committee composed of both faculty and administrators will consider the following when making the recommendation for a course-release:

Likelihood of completion

The committee will assess the likelihood that the applicant will complete the grant submission. Criteria will include:

- how the project aligns with the applicant's expertise
- any preliminary results of the project
- the feasibility of the applicant's plan for completing the proposal
- the applicant's record of submitting proposals to external agencies

Likelihood of funding

The committee will assess the degree to which the grant submission is likely to result in a successful outcome. Criteria will include:

- comments from the previous submission (if applicable and available)
- the degree to which the grant submission aligns with the priorities of the funding agency
- agency funding rates
- the dollar amount of the potential grant

- the PI's track record of successfully securing external funding to support research activities.

How to apply

Please submit the following to be considered for the course release grant:

- **Project Title**
- **Abstract**
    - The abstract should describe the project clearly and completely in 500 words or less
- **Project Narrative (no more than 3 pages in length)**
    - The narrative should describe the project in clear language explained in terms a non-expert can understand
    - The narrative should also present a compelling argument identifying the merits of the proposed project, including a clear description of the goals and objectives, the significance of the project, and the importance of external funding for successful project completion
    - In addition, the narrative should clearly identify:
        - the external agency or agencies to which funding proposals will be submitted
        - the timeline for proposal submission
        - the funding agencies' priorities and how the proposed project aligns with those priorities
        - the range of available external funding options
        - proposal acceptance rates for each agency (if available)
- **References** *(does not count toward page limit)*
- **Curriculum Vitae:** (*Maximum of two pages, does not count toward page limit)*. Include a CV for each PI that highlights work and publications relevant to this proposal.
- **Statement of support from the applicant's chairperson**
    - This statement should address the impact of the course release on the department's ability to deliver its curriculum and the impact of the grant submission on the applicant's career development.
- Applicant must disclose any other reduction in workload that has been provided for the academic year.

Deadline: Please submit the course release proposal to the Research Development Grant Portal, no later than October 11, 2024 for Spring 2025 course releases. To access the portal, go to https://umassd.infoready4.com/.

Please note

No faculty member can be released from all teaching responsibilities during the spring when a course release is awarded. Applications from faculty who already receive contractually mandated course reductions will be considered but will receive a lower priority. Faculty with externally funded course releases must use them prior to applying for this opportunity.