Hrabowski Fund for Innovation Competition

Call for Proposals

**2025-26**

1. **Introduction**

UMBC’s Fund for Innovation Competition supports initiatives to enhance teaching and learning at UMBC, with specific emphasis on innovative approaches to increase the success of our undergraduate and graduate students. Such approaches may include, but are not limited to, redesign of courses or other learning experiences, innovative course and/or curriculum development, and other projects designed to improve or understand student learning outcomes at UMBC. Proposals that aim to understand the effectiveness of existing strategies at UMBC will also be accepted.

The competition is open to all tenured and tenure-track faculty; teaching-track faculty; clinical instructional faculty; library faculty; and instructors and staff with full-time appointments. Proposals for funding may be made by individuals or by collaborative groups.

1. **Awards**

For AY25-26, a total of approximately $100,000 in funding will be available and allocated through the competitive review of proposals by a selection committee. Awards for funding for a period up to 24 months are available in four categories:

**Seed Awards** have a budget totaling $3,500 or less for the 24-month period. These awards support projects that are smaller in scope and/or more speculative in nature.

**Adaptation (ADAPT) Awards** have a budget totaling $10,000 or less for the 24-month period. These awards support the adaptation and implementation of existing successful innovations into other courses, programs, or disciplines.

**Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Awards** have a budget totaling $10,000 or less for the 24-month period. These awards support the collection and analysis of data on the effect of interventions on student learning and success with the purpose of public dissemination and review.

**Implementation and Research (IR) Awards** have a budget of $3,500 or greater up to the total maximum amount of $25,000 for the 24-month period. These awards support truly innovative, larger projects. Individual recipients and the leader of a collaborative project may use the title of “UMBC Innovation Fellow” for the duration of the award. Individuals participating in a collaborative group project will be considered as members of a “UMBC Innovation Collaborative.”

1. **Proposal Development and Criteria**

The proposal narrative must describe the project background, the project goals and objectives, methodology, a plan to evaluate the effectiveness of the project in reaching those goals, and a start date.

Proposals should address, and will be evaluated upon, the following criteria:

* Clear description of a well-defined project or problem to be investigated.
* Potential impact on student success and/or broadening participation and the metrics that will be used to assess this impact.
* Relationship between the proposed methods and concepts and existing research in teaching and learning at UMBC or elsewhere (if appropriate).
* Feasibility of the project.
* Plans for formative and summative assessment of the impact on student learning.
* Plans for sustaining funding for ongoing costs for the project beyond the grant period (if appropriate). These plans must be provided by the PI’s Dean or other unit officer with primary budget responsibility.
* Plans for dissemination within the UMBC community including the potential of the transfer of lessons learned to other courses, disciplines and programs.

1. **Proposal Submission Format and Review**

Applications consist of completion and submission of the following components: the checklist page (provided), cover page form (provided), budget template (provided), and proposal narrative.

1. The **checklist** provides a convenient way to verify that the proposal is complete.
2. The **cover page form** captures essential information from the proposal narrative, such as: title of the project; names of faculty or staff and departments or units involved in the project; a concise summary or abstract of the project including project goals; and overall cost. The cover page requires a signature indicating endorsement of the entire proposal by the applicants’ department chair(s) or supervisor(s).
3. The **budget template** captures common categories of expense and is required to be included in the proposal.
4. The **proposal narrative** develops these ideas fully, clearly addressing the criteria described in section three above. The proposal narrative will include a budget justification.

Proposal narratives for seed awards (total budget of $3,500 or less) have a maximum length of three pages (single-spaced, font equivalent to Times New Roman 12 point) including a narrative budget justification.

Proposal narratives for adaptation awards and scholarship of teaching and learning awards (total budget of $10,000 or less) have a maximum length of eight pages (single-spaced, font equivalent to Times New Roman 12 point) including a narrative budget justification.

Proposal narratives for implementation and research awards (total budget of $3,500 or greater, but no more than $25,000) have a maximum length of eight pages (single-spaced, font equivalent to Times New Roman 12 point) including a narrative budget justification.

All applications will be reviewed and ranked by a selection panel reporting to the Provost.

1. **Selection Panel**

Members of a selection panel will review and rank the applications. The selection panel consists of:

**Interim Director of the Faculty Development Center** (non-voting chair)

**Voting members:** Six faculty, three from the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences or Social Work and three from the Natural Sciences, Mathematics, Engineering, and Technology fields and one representative each from the Division of Student Affairs, the Graduate School, and Undergraduate Academic Affairs.

The faculty will be chosen from previously named UMBC HIF awardees, Presidential Teaching and/or Regents Awardees, or faculty members at-large as needed to maintain equal representation across divisions as specified above.

1. **Budget**

Expenses that can be covered by these grants may include, but are not limited to: supplies and equipment, programming or research assistance, fees and expenses for student field trips, honoraria for classroom guest speakers, fees and expenses for conferences or workshops directly related to teaching, and summer stipends. Applications that request funds for course releases must be discussed and endorsed by the department chair prior to submission.

All awardees are responsible for appropriate use and accounting for the funds provided. Any significant changes to the proposed budget with regard to types or amounts of expenditures must be pre-approved by Kerrie Kephart, Interim Director of the Faculty Development Center. All awards will be made for 24 months. Special extensions or carry-over of funds that are not expended during the period of the award must be approved by the Provost before the end of the initial award period. Awardees who wish to continue or expand their projects beyond 24 months should submit a new proposal prior to the end of the project.

1. **Proposal Submission and Deadlines**

Applications will be reviewed twice every year. For the AY25-26 competition, proposal deadlines are October 31, 2025 and March 27, 2026. Applications received after a deadline will be considered during the next round of the competition.

Application materials (proposal narrative, cover form page, and checklists) are to be submitted by e-mail to Kerrie Kephart at [fdc@umbc.edu](mailto:fdc@umbc.edu) in Word format or (preferably) as a single pdf file. Hardcopy applications will not be accepted. Awards should be announced within approximately three months of the deadline for submission.

1. **Start Date**

For the AY25-26 competition, proposals submitted by the October 31, 2025 deadline will officially start January 26, 2026. Proposals submitted by the March 27, 2026 deadline will officially start July 1, 2026.

1. **Expectations of All Awardees**

Expectations of awardees include:

* Attendance and a presentation at the Provost’s Teaching and Learning Symposium.
* At the end of the first 12 months, submission of a mid-project progress report including current status of the project and budget expenditures to that point.
* Within three months of project completion: a presentation and brief written report about key outcomes.
* Willingness to serve on the selection panel for the following year’s competition, if nominated.

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Cover Page Form

|  |
| --- |
| Project Title: |
| Grant Type:  Seed  Adaptation  SoTL  Implementation & Research |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of Lead Investigator: | Department: |
| Signature of Lead  Investigator: | Date: |
| Start Date: | Total Budget Request: |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Names of Co-Investigators | Department | Signature | Date |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Name of Chair(s) or Supervisor(s) | Department | Signature | Date |
|  |  |  |  |
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| --- |
| Abstract or Summary of Project: (include project goals, brief plan, and proposed assessment method in 250 words or less): |

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Proposal Checklist

|  |
| --- |
| Project Title: |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name of Lead Investigator: | Department: | Date: |

Please review the following list of elements and procedures required as part of the UMBC Fund for Innovation Competition and check that you have included them in your proposal and that it is complete.

|  |
| --- |
| I have obtained the approval and signature of my department chair or supervisor on the cover form. |
| I have included a statement of plans from my Dean or other appropriate unit officer for continuing funding beyond the grant period (if appropriate). |
| I have provided all requested information on the cover form page. |
| I have discussed the proposed purchase, use, or development of any instructional technology with DoIT’s Instructional Technology staff. |
| The project budget request for this award is:  $3,500 or less (for Seed projects)  $10,000 or less (for Adaptation and SoTL projects)  at least $3,500, but no more than $25,000 (for Implementation & Research projects) |
| The proposal narrative for this award:  is no more than 3 pages for Seed projects, or no more than 8 pages including a budget justification for Adaptation, SoTL, and Implementation & Research projects. |
| gives a clear description of the project. |
| explains the potential impact of this project on student success/participation. |
| describes the measures that will be used to assess impact of the project. |
| provides information on any other research pertinent to this project. |
| discusses the feasibility of this project. |
| describes how the impact of this project on student learning will be assessed. |
| includes a dissemination plan for sharing the results of this project with the broader UMBC community. |
| I have included a separate, detailed budget (not required for Seed projects.) |
| I understand that, if awarded, the grant funding will be available for use for a period of 24 months after the start date. Special extensions can only be approved by the Provost. Extension requests must be received by the FDC in writing before the initial grant expires. |
| If nominated, I am willing to serve on the selection panel for the next round of awards. |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Hrabowski Fund for Innovation Competition** | | | |
| **Budget Template** | | | |
| PERSONNEL (time x rate) | Year 1 | Year 2 | Total |
| Faculty Stipends |  |  |  |
| Post-Doc Stipends |  |  |  |
| Graduate Student Stipends |  |  |  |
| Undergraduate Student Stipends |  |  |  |
| Staff Stipends |  |  |  |
| Fringe (if necessary for stipends) |  |  |  |
| Total - Personnel |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| PERMANENT EQUIPMENT |  |  |  |
| Item 1 (Name items and add rows as needed) |  |  |  |
| Total - Equipment |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| TRAVEL |  |  |  |
| Trip 1 (List purposes/destinations and add rows as needed) |  |  |  |
| Total - Travel |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| PARTICIPANT SUPPORT |  |  |  |
| Stipends |  |  |  |
| Travel |  |  |  |
| Subsistence |  |  |  |
| Other |  |  |  |
| Total - Participant Support |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| OTHER COSTS |  |  |  |
| Materials and supplies |  |  |  |
| Publication costs |  |  |  |
| Consultant services |  |  |  |
| Computer services |  |  |  |
| Facility costs |  |  |  |
| Total - Other costs |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| TOTAL BUDGET |  |  |  |