# CREATIVE INQUIRIES FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

CALL FOR GRANT PROPOSALS

Student success is the responsibility of no one person or department. It is something that every member of the University of Arizona community must play a role in creating and maintaining. Undergraduate student success is influenced by academic, socio-cultural, financial, and psychological/wellness factors. It takes multifaceted programs and supports addressing these factors throughout the University to help students thrive. Our best work for student success occurs when we approach the work as scholarly-practitioners and ask evidence-based questions to prompt further development. This new program invites diverse teams to develop creative inquiries to explore localized retention problems.

STUDENT SUCCESS

ACADEMIC FACTORS
SOCIOCULTURAL FACTORS
FINANCIAL FACTORS
PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS
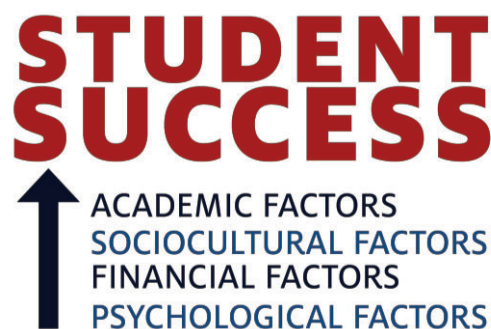
▶ What are the unique local, retention challenges in your academic unit, program, or support center?
▶ Is there one class that seems to derail students?
▶ Is there a policy in your department that has an adverse effect on persistence?
▶ Is there a non-cognitive skill that you think might support the students in your area?
▶ Is there an identifiable strength among one program you think could aid another?

The Creative Inquiries for Student Success programs, supported by the University's Strategic Plan, will provide funding to help teams design and execute a creative inquiry to address a retention challenge in your area.

PURPOSE OF THE GRANT

This grant program seeks to promote collaboration between UA faculty, staff, and students to solve problems or explore experiences influencing student success and make recommendations for improvement. Consequently, a result of this joint participation will be raising graduation and retention rates.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

Awards will go to Creative Inquiry (CI) Teams to provide research-based answers to persistence and graduation questions. Through CI Teams, persistence and/or graduation challenges will be explored with an ultimate goal of identifying recommendations for policy, program, or curriculum enhancements to support student success. CI Teams must include faculty, academic advisors, student success professionals, and undergraduate students to encourage collaboration and ensure that the research question will be considered from as many perspectives and experiences. CI Teams will need to make a commitment of one to two years to the program; one semester or year will be spent working on their research project and the following semester will be spent serving on the CI Grant Committee providing service and support for the following application cycle. Note that the committee will only be accepting one complete application per CI Team.

Student Success & Retention Innovation

GUIDELINES
This is not funding for programming. It is funding to bring diverse teams together to (A) explore complex, localized retention problems, (B) advance scholarly-practitionership, (C) make evidence-based recommendations, and (D) disseminate lessons learned from inquiry.

TO APPLY, YOU MUST:

1. Gather an inquiry team who can contribute diverse perspectives. The team must include at least one student, a faculty member, an academic advisor, and a staff member working in a student service or support program such as Admissions, Financial Aid, Think Tank, cultural centers, Campus Life, etc.

2. Identify a research question addressing academic, socio-cultural, financial, and psychological/wellness factors influencing retention.

3. Design a creative inquiry to address your research question.

4. Conduct an inquiry within an established time frame.

5. Develop recommendations based on your findings.

6. Create a dissemination plan to share recommendations and findings across campus as well as through academic and professional venues such as regional or national meetings, conferences, and publications. GRANT RECIPIENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PRESENT AT THE ANNUAL STUDENT SUCCESS CONFERENCE ON CAMPUS.

7. Commit to serving as a reviewer for the next round of program funding.

You may request as little as $500 for your inquiry or as much as $25,000. The number of projects funded will be based on the number of applications submitted and the potential of inquiries to shed light on a critical issue that could improve undergraduate retention and degree completion. Funding can be used for:

▸ Research materials, tools, data collection, or incentives
▸ Faculty course release, graduate assistantships, staff compensation
▸ Expenses to disseminate findings and recommendations such as on-campus meeting expenses, research poster printing, and conference travel

SELECTION
In the first year of the program, awards will be selected by strategic plan partners. In subsequent years, prior award winners will help select the next set of projects.

QUESTIONS
If you have any questions or feedback, please contact Candace Jones or Nina Kaur at
creativeinquiry@email.arizona.edu

ABOUT STUDENT SUCCESS AND RETENTION INNOVATION (SSRI)
SSRI supports the success of all undergraduates at the University of Arizona. Increases retention and graduation rates through strengths-based programming, evidence-based practices, and robust assessment. Serves as a leadership in public higher education for student success and degree completion.

ABOUT UA'S STRATEGIC PLAN
Through the implementation of the Strategic Plan, UA will develop innovative, adaptive learners and disruptive problem solvers who are prepared to lead meaningful lives and improve society in the Fourth Industrial Revolution Economy.

Student Success &
Retention Innovation

CREATIVE INQUIRIES FOR STUDENT SUCCESS APPLICATION

Written applications must address the following. Applications must be submitted by email to creativeinquiry@email.arizona.edu by end of business day on **November 18th, 2019**.

Note: All awarded grant applications must abide by University policies and guidelines

1. Name, Title and Department or Major (if student) of CI Team Lead:

2. Contact information for Team Lead:

3. CI Team Members (name, title, department or major)
   a. Student:
   b. Faculty Member:
   c. Academic Advisor:
   d. Staff Member:
   e. Additional Member(s):

4. What is your research question?

5. Why is this an important question? How might the knowledge gained from this inquiry improve student success including retention and degree completion?

6. Which retention factor(s) will your inquiry explore (academic, socio-cultural, financial, and psychological/wellness factor(s)?

7. Describe your methods of inquiry.

8. Provide a timeline for your work.

9. Provide a dissemination and/or implementation plan detailing how you will share findings and recommendations in your area, across campus, and through professional or scholarly venues.

10. What efforts will you make after the inquiry concludes to move recommendations from research to practice?

11. Do you commit to sharing your project at the annual Student Success Conference?

12. Do you commit to serving as a reviewer for future award cycles?

13. Does your inquiry require IRB approval? Why or why not?

14. Any relevant additional information or documents.

15. Provide a budget for funding between $500-$25,000 keeping in mind the following criteria:
    a. Funding is not available for student programming, success courses, or activities. Funding is provided to bring diverse teams together to (A) explore complex, localized retention problems, (B) advance scholarly-practitionership, (C) make evidence-based recommendations, and (D) disseminate lessons learned from inquiry.
    b. Funding can be used for:
        o Research materials, tools, data collection, or incentives
        o Faculty course release, graduate assistantships, staff compensation
        o Expenses to disseminate findings and recommendations such as on-campus meeting expenses, research poster printing, and conference travel
    c. Funds are to be used from January 2020 through December 2020
    d. Funds cannot be used on existing University projects or services.
    e. Selected CT Teams will receive notification of awarded funds by November 25th, 2019.

CREATIVE INQUIRIES FOR STUDENT SUCCESS EXPENSES

PROJECTED EXPENSES

▸ An itemized breakdown is required. Please complete the information below as it relates to how funds will be used.

STAFFING

▸ **Funds would be used to cover wages/salaries, including ERE**
▸ Proposals that fund staff who work with for credit courses will not be considered.

Position type: Expense amount:

Position type: Expense amount:

Position type: Expense amount:

EQUIPMENT/TECHNOLOGY

Item/Category:	Cost per item:	Quantity Needed/Semester:	Expense amount:
Item/Category:	Cost per item:	Quantity Needed/Semester:	Expense amount:
Item/Category:	Cost per item:	Quantity Needed/Semester:	Expense amount:
Item/Category:	Cost per item:	Quantity Needed/Semester:	Expense amount:

OTHER EXPENSES
(equipment or facility rentals, fieldtrips, other operating expenses)

Item/Category:	Cost per item:	Quantity Needed/Semester:	Expense amount:
Item/Category:	Cost per item:	Quantity Needed/Semester:	Expense amount:
Item/Category:	Cost per item:	Quantity Needed/Semester:	Expense amount:
Item/Category:	Cost per item:	Quantity Needed/Semester:	Expense amount:

TOTAL: