Assessment Grants Call for Proposals  
(February 2016)

With the support of the Dean of Arts & Sciences, the Dean of Academic Affairs, and the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, the Arts & Sciences Faculty Assessment Committee (ASFAC) is pleased to announce the availability of department/program, grants to support the assessment of student learning in Trinity College majors.

- Awards will range between $500 and $5,000. Larger awards should provide models of assessing learning in the major, significantly raise the level of department/program engagement, and show promise of being applicable to other majors.

Proposals should reflect the department’s engagement with the four essential aspects of assessment: 1) Articulating goals for the major and specific student learning outcomes, 2) Using direct measures, particularly those embedded in courses and requirements of the major, 3) Sharing data regularly with departmental faculty, and 4) Taking concrete actions to strengthen the major based on assessment findings (closing the loop).

Examples of projects funded in the past have included: the development of new measures or rubrics to assess student learning in the major; focus groups to provide information on students’ experiences in the major; curriculum development and/or new programmatic activities based on assessment data; training of faculty in assessment methods (including travel to conferences and workshops); purchase of resources and materials (such as software) that test student learning; funding of a graduate student to help evaluate student projects or artifacts; and activities which bring together faculty from within a single TCAS division or from across divisions and disciplines to collaborate on assessment initiatives.

How to Apply: Proposals should be submitted electronically no later than April 1, 2016 to lee.willard@duke.edu. They will be evaluated by members of ASFAC, with notification shortly thereafter.

The proposal should not exceed five double-spaced pages and include:

- a detailed project description
- a statement of anticipated department/program impact or how the project moves the department/program’s assessment efforts forward
- a budget and timeline
- identification of the project leader(s)
- any additional supporting materials

NOTES:
Projects will receive funding on July 1, 2016. The deadline for expending funds and reporting on projects is May 1, 2017. All funds must be expended through Duke University. Funding for staff salary is not allowed. No subcontracts will be issued to outside partners. Additional co-funding of projects from other Duke or non-Duke sources is not required, but is welcomed. The possibility of the project leading to new revenue streams, such as external grant funding, is favored. Collaborative activities that strengthen the assessment of student learning outcomes in more than one unit are encouraged. Proposals which articulate a plan for sharing resources, staffing, measurement tools, findings, and innovative designs will be favored. Consultation and/or collaboration with the Trinity College Office of Assessment is strongly suggested.

Grantee Expectations: Recipients must submit a formal report no later than May 1, 2017. They may be expected to share work with other departments and/or make presentations.