

# Enhancement of Difficult Courses to Increase Successful Student Completion

## Project Personnel

Total Award Amount \$ 110,000

### Project Director

Name: Victor Okhysen  
Title: Associate Professor  
Department: Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering

### Co-Project Director

Name: Claudia Pinter-Lucke  
Title: Associate Vice President  
Department: Academic Programs

### Co-Project Director

Name:  
Title:  
Department:

## Project Description

The goal of this proposal is to diminish the impact of difficult courses in delaying graduation by increasing the number of students that successfully complete the courses. Courses with a minimum of nine sections per year in which 65% or less of the students achieve a "C" grade or better are the target of this proposal.

The requested funds will be used by the Graduation Initiative Committee to establish a grant program to support department-based efforts to develop student support enhancements for these classes. Departments will develop a support structure that aligns well with the courses' content and pedagogy, but is not dependent on an individual instructor's pedagogy. Departments will be required to develop a plan that is resource-efficient and sustainable yet offers the support to a significant number of students. Approaches may include, but are not limited to, pre/post testing, supplementary materials, tutoring programs, recitation meetings, and benchmark tests. The Faculty Center for Professional Development will support all departments with difficult classes, but particularly the funded departments, by offering a series of guest speakers who will present student support models.

Departments will have two years to implement their course enhancement plan. In the first year, the departments will develop the student support course enhancement, and pilot it by the end of the first year. In the second year, the project will expand to serve more students, and the department must prepare for the program to continue without grant funding..

The funding criteria for the first year of funding will include:

- 1) Commitment by department for student support course enhancement
- 2) Support of College dean
- 3) The quality of the enhancement plan
- 4) The impact of the enhancement
- 5) Assessment plan for enhancement project.

To obtain a second year of funding, the criteria will include:

- 1) Assessment of first year of implementation
- 2) Plan to expand implementation
- 3) The quality of plan to sustain the course enhancement after grant funding ends
- 4) Plan to disseminate enhancement plan at appropriate on or off campus venues.

This proposal requests three years of funding to support two two-year cycles of the Course Enhancement Program. It is expected that three departments will be funded in the first cycle of the grant program, and six departments in the second cycle.