2026-2027 Teaching Allocation Grant: Call for Proposals

Date: November 2, 2026
To: UNM Regular Voting Faculty, Main Campus
From: Faculty Senate Teaching Enhancement Committee (TEC)
Subject: Teaching Allocation Grant (TAG) Policies/Guidelines/Proposal Process for 2026-2027

I. Funding Opportunities and General Information

The Teaching Enhancement Committee (TEC) invites proposals for the Teaching Allocation Grants. These grants support projects that will enhance teaching effectiveness and support UNM's diverse student population. The committee seeks proposals for realistic, well-planned, innovative projects that clearly outline rationale and desired outcomes.

It is the intent of the TAG Subcommittee to support innovative teaching and learning methods that address the needs of UNM's diverse student population and enhance effective communication of information, ideas, or methods of inquiry in an academic environment. We encourage proposals for upgrading existing courses, developing interdisciplinary approaches to learning and collaboration, or utilizing modern technologies as teaching tools. It is essential that the proposal include a) a clear indication of the anticipated effect on learning enhancement b) the number of students that will benefit, c) how the success of the project will be assessed, d) how the results will impact and be shared beyond UNM (e.g., with other higher-education institutions).

Proposals should be submitted by January 25, 2027. The TAG Subcommittee will review proposals and contact awardees by March 1, 2027.

A. Funding Opportunities

We encourage a wide range of proposals that address UNM's 2040 Vision, Mission, and Values. Specifically, we are seeking proposals for projects that align with Goal Two "Student Experience and Educational Innovation" and goal Three "Inclusive Excellence" that expand opportunities for students' deep, culturally relevant, and critical learning in their respective fields and beyond.

Proposals that include the following focus areas listed in order of priority will be given special consideration:

1) *Interdisciplinary projects that include significant collaborations across units*—staff-faculty, inter-department, inter-college, inter-branch, and inter-institution (e.g., partnerships with NM community colleges, higher education NM institutions, NM High Schools, etc.).
2) Community engaged scholarship-based projects that include creative initiatives with the purpose of co-constructing knowledge and resources that respond to identified community needs across New Mexico (e.g., placed-based teaching and learning activities, cultural and historical inquiry projects to expand students' understanding of diverse ways of knowing, AI teaching and learning activities that prioritize a critical thinking focus.).
3) Integrating academic innovations, training, and technologies that *support multiple accessible modalities of learning and accommodate needs of a wide variety of students.*

4) Interdisciplinary science projects that innovatively integrate culturally relevant teaching and learning for students' sense of belonging to their fields (e.g., *history of placed-based science, practical community applications and connections, indigenous epistemologies, etc.).*

5) Enhancing the teaching effectiveness of *faculty from historically underrepresented groups (including graduate student instructors), and/or*
6) Enhancing the success of *students from historically underrepresented groups.*

B. Eligibility

As in previous years, proposals must originate from faculty who hold the rank of Lecturer, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Professor.

- **Funds will not be awarded to support student work leading to an advanced degree.**
- **Funds may not be used to compensate faculty's time spent on the project.**

C. Period of Funding

Funds must be expended by the award recipient by May 2028.

D. Award Management, Sharing, & Reporting

The award recipient is fully responsible for management of grant funds. Outstanding expenses will be the responsibility of the recipient of the award. Once the project is complete, each TAG funding recipient MUST submit a brief summary report within 90 days of the termination of the grant period (August, 2028). The reports should clearly indicate: (1) how the funds were used, (2) the number of students impacted by the project, (3) results of the assessment of the project, and (4) a summary of any resulting presentations or publications. A report template will be provided to all award recipients. To be eligible for funding on a future proposal, recipients must have filed a final report for all previous TAG grants.

The award recipient agrees to have their name listed on the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) website along with their contact information and report. Award recipients are also expected to disseminate their findings to other members of the University community. Awardees are encouraged to share their work at the UNM Spring Teaching Conference and will be contacted to consider participating in this or other CTL workshops.

E. Funding Restrictions

Eligible items for funding include purchase of supplies, equipment, travel, and services requested and approved in the award recipient's submitted budget. Funds may not be used to compensate a faculty member for time spent on the project. Any budget modification that alters the scope of the work must be submitted in writing to the TAG Subcommittee Chair for approval prior to any expenditure of funds.

Awards: Individual grants will be limited to $5,000.

Personnel/Services: Funds may be requested for personnel/services that award recipients would not normally be expected to provide themselves (e.g., graduate assistants, student employment). All requests for personnel/services must be in accord with current University policies and salary rates, and they must be fully described and justified as essential to achieve the goals of the proposals.

Travel: TAG will consider travel to symposia, conferences, seminars, or exhibits or the use of funds to bring relevant resources to campus. All pertinent transportation will be supported at the actual cost. It is expected that the award recipient will seek the lowest airfare possible. Proposals for such funds must be justified and accompanied by descriptive literature of the content of the event.

Major Equipment: If the project requires the purchase of major equipment (valued at $1000 or more) the equipment becomes the property of the recipient's department. Any request for major equipment must be fully justified as critical to the project.

Examples of funding eligible expenditures: These expenditures included in previous years' proposals were fully funded.

- $3800 for video otoscope, specula, and replacement (for training audiology students to use ear-imaging equipment; A&S, Speech and Hearing)
- $5000 for risography (book printing) equipment and supplies, and workshop ($2756 for equipment, $2244 for two faculty members' travel and workshop fees; $5250 in-kind funding from other sources; Fine Arts, Art and Art History)
- $4000 to fund six-week summer academy for 30 students transferring from CNM (for passenger van rentals and other transportation, honoraria to NM pueblos, and SUB room rental; A&S, Chicano/a/x Studies, English, Native American Studies)
- $2100 for special-education professor to attend institute on Kagan Cooperative Learning Strategies ($800 institute fees and materials, $529 for mileage driving personal car, $750 for lodging and per diem; Education, Special Education)

F. Prior Approval

Approvals must be obtained from the appropriate University committees for projects which involve any use of human subjects, animals, radioactive materials, or recombinant DNA techniques.

II. Organization of the Proposal

Proposals without a complete cover page and letter of **support will be returned without review.**

G. Cover Page (Page 1)

The first page of the proposal must include the following information:

a. Name of applicant, rank, department, email address, complete campus address, campus phone number, number of years at UNM, number and date of any previous TAG award
b. Title of the proposal
c. 100-word summary of the project (which will be posted on the CTL website if the proposal is funded)
d. Total amount requested from the TAG for the project
e. Description of other funding sources or in-kind support for the project

A. Letter of Support (Page 2)

Letter or email from department chair or senior faculty member in support of the project. The letter should explain the importance of the proposed project to curriculum and instruction in the department.

H. Project Overview (pages 3-up to 5)

In three single-spaced pages or fewer, and avoiding technical terminology that may not be understood by a general academic audience, please include the following:

a. Explain the problem or question your project will investigate or attempt to solve and make clear why this is a significant problem/question for the field.
b. Include a short section on current or best practices in teaching-and-learning research that supports your proposal.
c. Clearly outline the methodology you plan to use to approach the problem. Make sure we

understand how your methods will yield findings/data that will address the problem you have identified.

d. Provide a timetable detailing how the project will proceed.
e. Connect the project to previously enacted innovations or to published research and scholarship.
f. Describe your (and/or your team's) expertise and experience in this area.
f. Describe how resources or findings will be shared (intra-institutionally or through scholarly, publishable avenues).

I. Realistic, Detailed Budget and Timeline (two pages maximum)

Any in-kind budget items or alternative budget sources should be included in the budget; they will strengthen a proposal. State whether you will accept partial funding. Include a realistic timeline for your project. Please include justifications for each budget item for which you are requesting funding, such as major equipment, personnel, and travel.

III. Criteria for Selection

Successful proposals pursue innovations that further the TEC's policy statement.[1] In reviewing the proposals, we will use the following criteria:

Significance, relevance, generalizability

- ✓ Does the project address an important problem that is relevant to the work of instructors at UNM—i.e., that will make an original and significant contribution?
- ✓ If the aims of the project are achieved, how will teaching excellence be advanced?
- ✓ How many students will be affected by this project? How many faculty members will be affected?
- ✓ Will the project's aims apply to contexts outside of the immediate context of origin? (Note: "proof of concept" and "model program" projects may be considered generalizable.)

Innovation

- ✓ Is the project original and innovative? For example, does the project challenge existing practices or address an innovative hypothesis or critical barrier to progress?
- ✓ Does the project develop or employ novel concepts, approaches, methodologies, tools, or technologies for this area?

Methods and feasibility

- ✓ Are the methods appropriate and clearly described?
- ✓ Is the methodology adequately developed, well-reasoned, and likely to result in useful findings that address the issues articulated in the proposal?
- ✓ How will the project's results be assessed, and will the planned assessment lead to findings that are reliable and valid?

Environment(s)

- ✓ Is/are the environment/environments well suited to the aims—i.e., does the proposed project benefit from the unique features of the unit, or employ promising collaborative arrangements?
- ✓ Not required but helpful: Does the proposal aim to study populations or settings that have been underrepresented in writing-program research?

Cost Effectiveness

[1] The TEC's current policy statement can be found at https://handbook.unm.edu/t2km140x/.

- ✓ Does the budget clearly explain all costs and expenditures?
- ✓ Are the budget items reasonable? When appropriate, does the budget (or narrative) explain why certain items are justified?
- ✓ Do the project's outcomes justify the project's expenses?
- ✓ Not required but helpful: Does the budget include in-kind or matching funds from other sources (such as the department or other funding agencies)?

Sharing of project findings

- ✓ A plan for dissemination of the project findings is included.

IV. Submission

All proposals should be submitted electronically. Hardcopy submissions will not be accepted. You may contact teachingsupportctl@unm.edu, with any additional inquiries regarding the policies; **please use this subject line: "Teaching Allocation Grant Inquiry."**