

**Request for Proposals: Department/Program–Based Graduate Learning Communities (GLC)**  
Sponsored by: ISU's [Graduate College](#), Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching ([CELT](#)), [Learning Communities](#), and the national Center for Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning ([CIRTL](#))

Due date: Friday, July 12, 5pm

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Proposals are now being accepted to form new Graduate Learning Communities (GLC) to help graduate students (both Masters and PhD) with first-year transitions to graduate school. Departments, graduate programs, and graduate student organizations are invited to propose GLCs that:

- Help incoming graduate students successfully make the transition from undergraduate to graduate school by building community
- Provide time and opportunities for students to strategize how to thrive in graduate school
- Engage graduate students early in the scholarly life of the department or program.

Several GLCs started at ISU in Fall 2012 and we are encouraging other programs and departments to start their own GLCs. The cornerstones of a GLC are

- Regular meetings which engage students in discussions about becoming successful in his or her particular discipline.
- Seminars addressing the milestones of graduate work, research skills, teaching and learning pedagogy, and leadership.
- A structured social atmosphere fostering peer-to-peer mentoring relationships, community building, and connections to faculty.

There is tremendous flexibility on how GLCs are organized. Some GLCs might be run by the DOGE, others by the graduate student organization, while others will be a partnership between different organizations/administrative units. Some will focus exclusively on first-year students; others may broaden the scope to include more experienced students, encompassing professional development for all students. Another possible model may be to focus on a specific need, e.g. a learning community of TAs focused on pedagogy.

**Number of awards:** We anticipate up to \$1000 of funds available for each of 8 new GLCs from [CIRTL](#). Existing GLCs and new GLCS are encouraged to apply for funding. We would like to fund more than 8 GLCs if possible, so please consider your budget carefully.

**Amount of support:** Please separate your budget and budget justification into two parts: initial startup costs and ongoing costs.

- Initial costs might include setting aside a physical space for 1<sup>st</sup> year students, development of orientation materials for the GLC, or the creation of short mini-courses or workshops for the GLC.
- Each GLC should also propose a budget for annual ongoing costs and whether this can be provided by matching funds from the Department or program. Ongoing costs could include food for meetings, payment to the graduate student organization, or peer mentors. A second year of support (up to \$500) may be available for qualifying GLCs, but how ongoing funding will be institutionalized should be addressed in your budget.

**Criteria for selection:** Does the GLC adequately:

1. Address challenges of 1st year graduate and other students
2. Support the three CIRTL pillars:
  - a. Teaching-as-research is the deliberate, systematic, and reflective use of research methods by science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) instructors to develop and implement teaching practices that advance the learning experiences and outcomes of both students and teachers.
  - b. Learning communities bring together groups of people for shared learning, discovery, and generation of knowledge. To achieve common learning goals, a learning community nurtures functional relationships among its members.
  - c. Learning-through-diversity capitalizes on the rich array of experiences, backgrounds, and skills among STEM undergraduates and graduates-through-faculty to enhance the learning of all. It recognizes that excellence and diversity are necessarily intertwined.

**Proposal Details**

- Deadline July 1, 2013, 3-page limit
- Please include
  - The challenges faced by your 1<sup>st</sup> year graduate and other students and how the GLC will address these
  - Planned components of the GLC (it is recommended that all proposed GLCs include peer mentors).
  - A description of your partners (one or multiple graduate programs, one or multiple Graduate Student organizations).
  - Assessment plans (please use template below. If needed, add rows):

<b>Intended learning outcome</b>	<b>Specific GLC experiences which promote this outcome</b>	<b>Assessment Plan: Evidence or artifacts to determine whether outcome has been achieved</b>

- Describe how the GLC will communicate GLC findings to faculty in the graduate program so they may better understand the challenges graduate students in the GLC face and can provide feedback
- A budget table and justification that has two sections
  - Startup costs for the GLC
  - Ongoing costs for the GLC
- Contact info for the primary coordinator, name, email, and phone number

Please send the proposals to Craig Ogilvie, Assistant Dean of the Graduate College, [cogilvie@iastate.edu](mailto:cogilvie@iastate.edu) by 5pm, Friday, July 12.