AY 2025–26 Excellence in Assessment Grant

- Funding Innovation in Assessment & Improvement
- Presenter: Jarrod Rossi, MS MBA EdD
- Director of University Assessment

Welcome & Purpose

- Goal: Walk through the grant, application process, and tips for success.

- Turn assessment ideas into funded projects.

Why the Grant Exists

- Support innovative assessment projects.

- Improve student learning outcomes & program quality.

- Encourage data-driven decision making.

- Fund resources and tools for more effective assessment.

Success Stories (AY 2024–25)

- Development of Data-Driven Student Assessment Dashboards for Institution-Wide Dynamic Assessment

- Autograder: Automated Grading and Feedback System

- Utilizing Virtual Reality Intervention to Improve Student Learning and Retention

- Effective Program Evaluation of the MS in Deaf Education Program

Who Can Apply

- Academic Programs.

- Student Support Services & Administrative Units.

- Individuals or collaborative teams encouraged.

- Open to Faculty and Staff

Funding & Allowable Expenses

- Typical award: Up to $5,000 per award

- Eligible: assessment software, training, data collection, related travel, data sets.

- Not Allowed: regular salaries, office supplies, stipends (for faculty and staff)

Timeline

- Application Opens: September 15
- Application Deadline: By End of Fall
- Award Notifications: By Digital Ticket in February
- Final Report Due: [TBD]

What Reviewers Look For

- Clear goals tied to SLOs or unit outcomes.

- Evidence of innovation or improvement.

- Link between assessment results and proposed action.

- Feasible scope & realistic budget.

- Potential for impact beyond one course/unit.

Scoring Categories

- Alignment with institutional priorities.

- Strength of assessment connection.

- Feasibility & clarity of plan.

- Budget justification.

- Potential for broad impact.

Criteria	Exemplary (4 pts)	Proficient (3 pts)	Developing (2 pts)	Needs Improvement (1 pt)
Purpose, Innovation & Alignment	Purpose is clear, highly innovative, and directly aligns with institutional assessment priorities, accreditation needs, and strategic themes.	Purpose is clear, moderately innovative, and aligns with one or more institutional priorities or themes.	Purpose is somewhat clear, slightly innovative, with partial alignment to priorities or themes.	Purpose is unclear, lacks innovation, and shows minimal or no alignment.
Methodology, Feasibility & Implementation	Detailed, feasible, well-structured plan ready for immediate implementation.	Clear methodology and feasible plan with minor preparations needed.	Some details missing, feasibility questionable, moderate preparation required.	Poorly described, lacks feasibility, major delays likely.
Scope & Student-Centric Impact	Institution-wide or large-scale impact; directly and significantly enhances measurable student learning outcomes.	Impacts multiple departments or a significant number of students; good impact on student learning (direct or indirect).	Moderate impact, primarily within one department; some student benefits not clearly measurable.	Limited impact, minimal or unclear student benefits.
Assessment & Evaluation Plan	Strong plan for evaluating effectiveness with clear measures tied to outcomes.	Basic evaluation plan with measurable components.	Weak evaluation plan with vague measures.	No clear evaluation approach.
Budget Justification & Use	Clear, reasonable, and well-justified budget supporting direct assessment and dissemination; minimal unrelated expenses.	Mostly supports assessment activities and dissemination; small amounts for indirect costs.	Budget lacks detail, includes significant non-assessment expenses.	Unclear, unreasonable, or majority spent on unrelated costs.
Scalability & Sustainability	Strong plan for long-term use and easy scalability beyond initial funding.	Some consideration for scalability or sustainability.	Limited focus on long-term use or unclear continuation potential.	No sustainability or scalability considered.
Overall Quality & Clarity	Application is clear, concise, compelling, and well-organized.	Mostly clear and organized.	Some unclear or disorganized sections.	Unclear, poorly written, or disorganized.

Common Pitfalls

- Too vague – lacks method.

- Budget doesn't match activities.

- No measurable outcomes.

- Overly ambitious.

Tips for a Winning Proposal

- Start with a problem/gap from assessment results.

- Show how the project addresses that gap.

- Keep outcomes measurable & realistic.

- Broad-based and current trends

- Get feedback before submission.

How to Apply

- Application portal: Will be live soon
- [Assessment Grant Application](#)
- Submit electronically with all required documents.
- Include budget table & justification.
- Respect word limits.

Support Available

- Director of Assessment can help:

  - Brainstorm ideas.

  - Review drafts for clarity & alignment.

  - Assist with budget planning.

  - Contact: jarrod.rossi@lamar.edu / 409-880-7143.

Closing Call-to-Action

- Your ideas can make a measurable difference.

- Reminder: Deadline & contact info.

Q&A

- Any questions? Comments?