

AI Curricular Innovation “Spark” Grants

Call for Proposals (Academic Year 2026-2027)

Overview

The Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs is pleased to announce the second cohort of **AI Curricular Innovation “Spark” Grants** for the 2026–2027 academic year.

AI Spark Grants support faculty-led projects that explore innovative, responsible, and impactful applications of artificial intelligence in teaching and learning. Through funding, implementation, and community sharing, the program encourages faculty to thoughtfully integrate AI into their courses while advancing student success, AI literacy, and workforce readiness.

Selected faculty will receive **\$1,500** to develop and implement projects that enhance teaching and learning through the responsible use of AI. Upon successful completion of their projects, faculty will be recognized as **AI Spark Grant Fellows** and will share their work with the HCCC community, contributing to a growing collection of AI-informed teaching practices and instructional resources.

Project Scope

AI Spark Grants support course-level projects that meaningfully enhance student learning through the responsible use of artificial intelligence.

Projects may focus on:

- Developing students' AI literacy and responsible AI practices.
- Enhancing teaching and learning through AI-supported instructional strategies.
- Integrating AI into discipline-specific learning experiences.
- Preparing students to effectively and responsibly engage with AI in academic, professional, and workforce settings.

Projects should have a clear and meaningful impact on student learning. Funding serves as a stipend for curriculum design, instructional innovation, implementation, and assessment. Proposals focused primarily on faculty productivity, administrative efficiencies, or operational workflows fall outside the scope of this program.

Example Project Ideas

Projects might include:

- Developing assignments that teach students to critically evaluate AI-generated content.
- Creating discipline-specific activities that incorporate AI tools to achieve course learning outcomes.
- Designing AI literacy modules that introduce responsible AI practices within a course.

- Building AI-supported tutoring, coaching, or feedback experiences that enhance student learning.
- Redesigning assessments to encourage critical thinking, reflection, and responsible AI use.
- Creating simulations, role-playing activities, or other learning experiences that leverage AI to improve student engagement.
- Exploring ethical, legal, or societal implications of AI within a particular discipline.
- Evaluating the impact of AI-enhanced instructional strategies on student learning outcomes.

Eligibility

All HCCC faculty, including full-time, adjunct, or CEWD faculty, are eligible to apply.

Faculty may submit proposals individually or as interdisciplinary teams. Each proposal must designate one faculty lead who will serve as the primary contact and project coordinator.

Award Expectations

Recipients will:

- Participate in AI Spark Grant cohort activities, including an orientation session and periodic opportunities to collaborate, exchange ideas, and share project progress.
- Implement their project during the Spring 2027 semester.
- Submit a brief reflection summarizing project outcomes, lessons learned, and recommendations for future implementation.
- Present their project during the Fall 2027 AI Spark Grant Showcase.

Upon successful completion of these requirements, participants will be recognized as **AI Spark Grant Fellows** and receive the AI Spark Grant Fellow digital badge.

Timeline

- **September 14, 2026** – Call for Proposals released
- **October 23, 2026** – Proposal Deadline
- **November 13, 2026** – Award Notification
- **Early December** – Orientation meeting
- **Spring 2026 semester** – Project Implementation

Proposal Review Criteria

AI Spark Grants are intended to support a diverse range of innovative approaches to teaching and learning. Reviewers will evaluate proposals based on the quality of the idea, its alignment with the goals of the program, its potential to improve student learning, and the feasibility of implementation - not on the specific AI tools or technologies proposed.

[Find the rubric that will be used to evaluate each submission here.](#)

Proposals must address all criteria to be considered.

- **Student Learning & AI Integration:** Describe how the project will enhance student learning through the responsible use of AI. Explain the learning outcomes students will achieve, how AI supports those outcomes, and why the project is valuable within the context of the course or discipline.
- **Implementation & Feasibility:** Describe how the project will be designed, implemented, and integrated into the course. Include a realistic project timeline with key milestones and demonstrate that the project is achievable within the proposed timeframe and aligned with sound instructional practices.
- **Student Impact:** Describe how students will experience the project and the anticipated benefits to their learning, engagement, AI literacy, or workforce readiness. Estimate the number of students who will be impacted.
- **Evaluation & Assessment:** Explain how you will assess the effectiveness of the project, including evidence of student learning, engagement, or other meaningful outcomes.
- **Sustainability:** Describe how the project, resources, or lessons learned could be sustained, adapted, or shared with colleagues beyond the grant period.

How to Apply

Applicants must inform their program coordinator, program director, or School Dean of their intent to apply.

[Please submit your completed application using this form by October 23, 2026.](#)

For questions or additional information, please contact mlabrake@hccc.edu.