

Application Details

Manage Application: ALG Textbook Transformation Grant

Award Cycle: Round 4

Internal Submission Deadline: Monday, September 7, 2015

Application Title: 147

Submitter First Name: Valerie

Submitter Last Name: Hastings

Submitter Title: Assistant Professor

Submitter Email Address: vthastings@ung.edu

Submitter Phone Number: 706-867-2726

Submitter Campus Role: Other

Applicant First Name: Valerie

Applicant Last Name: Hastings

Applicant Email Address: vthastings@ung.edu

Applicant Phone Number: 706-867-2726

Primary Appointment Title: Assistant Professor

Institution Name(s): University of North Georgia

Team Members (Name, Title, Department, Institutions if different, and email address for each):

Dr. Valerie Hastings, Assistant Professor of French, Modern and Classical Language department, vthastings@ung.edu.

Mariana Stone, Director of Language Labs, Spanish department, mariana.stone@ung.edu.

Sponsor, (Name, Title, Department, Institution):

Dr. Brian Mann, Head of the Modern and Classical Language department.

Proposal Title: 147

Course Names, Course Numbers and Semesters Offered:

Elementary French I, 1001 (offered in the Summer, Fall, and Spring every year.)

Elementary French II, 1002 (offered in the Summer, Fall, and Spring every year.)

Final Semester of Instruction: Spring 2017

Average Number of Students per Course Section: 21

Number of Course Sections Affected by Implementation in Academic Year: 30

Total Number of Students Affected by Implementation in Academic Year: 630

List the original course materials for students (including title, whether optional or required, & cost for each item):
-Required: En avant: Beginning French (9780073386461), 2nd edition by Anderson, \$148.00
-Required: Connect Plus with LearnSmart (1259278859) Introductory French Access Card for En avant, \$130.00
Total Cost \$278.00

Proposal Categories: No-Cost-to-Students Learning Materials

Requested Amount of Funding: \$10,800

Original per Student Cost: \$278.00

Post-Proposal Projected Student Cost: \$0

Projected Per Student Savings: \$278.00

Plan for Hosting Materials: Other

Project Goals:

- 1.To lower overall costs for degree completion for students by lowering textbook costs.
- 2.Utilize authentic L2 (Second Language) materials relevant to the culture and language they are studying that align with the linguistic goals and competencies of a lower division French student in 1001 /1002.
- 3.Provide an open source free textbook that will put an emphasis on interactive ways of learning and the use of technology (an open source free textbook online with active links to online videos and articles).
- 4.Allow students to have access to course materials that are very current and can easily be updated.
- 5.Compare and contrast the effect on learning outcomes between the students using a traditional textbook and those using the open source free online textbook .

6. Assess student preferences with a survey on the group trialed with the new online learning resource.
7. Encourage a switch to new online learning resources for other faculty working with other languages as well.

Statement of Transformation:

UNG serves a large and widespread population of low-income students. The rising cost of tuition and textbooks creates financial barriers that negatively affect degree completion. Making no-cost-to students learning materials available allows college to become more affordable and accessible to our population therefore increasing retention and graduation rates.

The textbook currently required is rather expensive and some students often decide not to purchase or wait too long to acquire the material required or recommended at the cost of their success in the class. Students often fall behind by postponing the purchase of their textbook, lose their confidence and sometimes even drop of the course or withdraw from college completely.

Also, most textbook material becomes dated rather quickly and even if they are updated with each new edition justifying an increase in price, the new editions are never able to embrace all the cultural and linguistic changes in real time. The new no-cost online learning material will allow to incorporate authentic online resources from the culture studied and will permit instant updates and the malleability necessary when it comes to teaching languages and culture, especially in a lower division French course.

Access to the most current information available will allow the students to make connections between what is happening in the Francophone world currently and the material studied, keeping them informed and interested. Also, an improved and easier access to the required and recommended materials for the course will allow the students to feel more confident and improve their overall performance.

Transformation Action Plan:

- Dr. Valerie Hastings: 1001&1002 French courses and syllabus redesign with a new sequence and a redefinition of the materials to be mastered after each level.
- Mariana Stone: Two student surveys (an experience survey to get feedback on the perceived efficiency and ease of use of the new resource and a final assessment survey to measure the impact on learning with the new resource compared to the old one).
- Mariana Stone & Dr. Valerie Hastings: Design interactive activities (to practice reading, writing, listening and speaking in class) and create quality videos and other audio materials to be embedded into the new online resource. All materials will be available on a freely accessible textbook (with active links to videos and audio material). The text will be available for downloading in Adobe Acrobat Format and will be freely accessible under the Creative Commons Attribution- NonCommercial- ShareAlike licence. A new web site will be created with a publishing platform available online (<https://versal.com>), to supplement and host the

pdf version of the new textbook.

Quantitative & Qualitative Measures: Compare ABC rates and DFW rates for FRENCH 1001 and 1002 using the new online resource to those using a commercial textbook.
Assess students performance using the uniform final exam for 1001 and 1002 and compare to those using a commercial textbook.
Assess speaking, writing, listening and reading skills using the ACTFL proficiency guidelines and compare to those using a commercial textbook.
Measure the impact on student experience with an online Survey on D2L for students who are using the new online resource. Suggestions for improvements will be solicited.
Survey of the faculty to get their feedback on the new online resource.

Timeline:

September 2015: Partial implementation in one level 1001 class and in one level 1002 class to compare the use of the new online resource with the group using a commercial textbook.

October 2015: First experience survey and assessment survey (ten-minute meetings with the students and midterm exams).

November 2015: Make some adjustments and/or changes based on the first surveys. The results will be shared with the rest of the faculty.

December 2015: Final experience survey and final assessment survey (Final exams).

January 2016: Full implementation: All sections of French 1001 and 1002 have free access to the online resource.

March 2016: Survey of the faculty to get their feedback on the new online resource.

April 2016: Experience survey and Assessment survey. Final report submitted including qualitative and quantitative outcomes.

Budget:

University of North Georgia	Requested Funds
<i>Personnel</i>	\$10,000.00
Dr. Valerie Hastings	\$5,000.00

Mrs. Mariana Stone	\$5,000.00
<i>Contractual</i>	<i>\$800.00</i>
Travel expenses for grant recipients	\$800.00

Sustainability Plan:

The courses for French 1001 & 1002 will be offered in the spring, summer and fall of each year using the free online resource on all UNG campuses.

The faculty will review all materials available with the free online resource annually and updates and/or changes will be made as appropriate.



August 8, 2015

Dear Members of the Review Board,

On behalf of the Division of World Language and Cultures at UNG, I would like to offer this letter of enthusiastic support for Valerie Hastings' Affordable Learning Georgia Textbook Transformation grant application. Valerie is a highly capable and Assistant Professor of French at our institution, and is eager to help her students learn French more effectively through the use of online and electronic resources.

As you will see in her application, Valerie's vision is to transform the student resource base for our French 1001 and 1002 courses from the customary textbook and accompanying ancillary materials (which usually cost our students in the neighborhood of \$250 to \$300), into one that incorporates an infinite variety of resources open source materials and makes them available to our students through our language laboratories and D2L, the USG's chosen learning management system.

There are three reasons why the prospect of Valerie's receiving this grant is very exciting to me. Firstly, in addition to serving as the head administrator for our language programs, I am also an experienced instructor of French and Spanish. I understand first-hand the degree to which relevant, up-to-date, and authentic materials are important to language learning in all five of the basic skills: reading, writing, listening, speaking, and cultural literacy. The textbook industry, while having made tremendous strides in recent years in providing these kinds of materials to students in their texts and associated electronic resources, will always face difficulties in providing them in a comprehensive, timely, and cost-effective way that reflects current technologies, pedagogical approaches, and cultural trends. This project offers infinite flexibility for customizing our materials to individual instructors and programs.

Secondly, over the past ten years, based on our institutional mission of internationalizing the curriculum and its necessary support for language instruction, we have designed and built a very strong program of innovative and varyingly intensive programs in eleven languages. Being one of the nation's six senior military colleges, our mission is also to provide our cadets with instruction in the so-called "strategic," or "critical" languages, such as Arabic, Chinese, and Russian. This project, although it only focuses on French, will serve as a template for the transformation of the same courses in our other ten languages. In addition, because we are currently in the midst of transforming the way we use our language laboratories to deliver services in student tutoring, faculty support, and curriculum delivery, this project fits seamlessly into our plans.

Thirdly, Valerie is already working with other faculty members in our division to realize this project in our other languages. It is exactly this kind of collaboration that has allowed us to build such a successful and exemplary language program, and I know that our Language Lab Director, Ms. Mariana Stone, and our Dean of Arts & Letters, Dr. Christopher Jespersen, are also in full support of Valerie's efforts.

If you require any further information on this proposal or would like to speak with me or with the colleagues I mentioned in the previous paragraph, please let me know. In the meantime, I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

D. Brian Mann, Ph.D.

Division Head of World Language & Cultures, Department Head of Modern & Classical Languages, and Professor of Modern Languages

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The University of North Georgia is designated as The Military College of Georgia and as a State Leadership Institution.