

**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND LIFE SCIENCES**  
**OFFICE OF DEAN and DIRECTOR**  
**CALL FOR PROPOSALS**  
**Undergraduate Course(s) in Food Systems &/or Agriculture**

**Important Dates**

- Proposal Deadline: April 3, 2015
- Award Notification: May 1, 2015
- Possible Starting Semester: Spring 2016, however this date is negotiable depending on proposed activities

**Funding Overview**

A “food system” includes activities from production to consumption, from farm to table, at local to global scales. A grand challenge facing society is to develop effective and efficient food systems that ensure a safe, secure, sustainable, affordable, accessible and nutritious food supply for all. Work in CALS addresses challenges across the spectrum of issues in production, distribution and consumption, including traditional agricultural systems, local and urban food systems, economic development, and sustainable ecosystems.

The CALS Strategic Plan identified Food Systems as a priority theme for the college, and listening sessions have identified the need for course options that introduce students to the basics of food systems and the important roles that agriculture plays in such systems. The CALS Dean’s office is soliciting proposals from CALS faculty and instructional academic staff to develop individual courses or a series of courses within this broad topic to begin in Spring 2016.

Ideas from the food system priority theme discussions include, but are not limited to:

- Courses providing foundational knowledge of food systems for undergraduate students interested in pursuing an individual major in food systems and/or sustainable agriculture.
- Courses in food and production agriculture for non-majors or prospective majors
- Organic food production and sustainability
- Integrated urban / rural production
- Environmental impact (native plants, watershed, land conservation) of food systems
- Certificate program
- Capstone course

Funding is available to support multi-disciplinary, cross-department teams in the development and delivery of a pilot course or courses. Funding may support instructor summer salary, a teaching assistant (for course development activities), and/or course development supplies and expenses.

Proposers are encouraged to consult with Sarah Pfatteicher (regarding questions related to curriculum, timetable, credit hours) or Laura Van Toll (re: strategic planning, food systems) regarding their plans. Total expenses for each proposal should not exceed \$25,000 (including fringes and tuition). More than one proposal may be funded.

Proposals should aim to further the college’s Strategic Plan ([www.cals.wisc.edu/departments/office-of-dean-and-director-2/cals-strategic-planning/](http://www.cals.wisc.edu/departments/office-of-dean-and-director-2/cals-strategic-planning/)).

**Eligibility**

Any current CALS faculty or instructional academic staff may submit a proposal on behalf of a multi-disciplinary, cross-departmental team.

**Submission Process**

Complete proposals will consist of three parts.

1. Proposal narrative (no more than 4 pages, double spaced) to include:
  - a. List of development team and instructional team members
  - b. Course description, including learning outcomes
  - c. Rationale for why we need this activity: how does it complement other activities in the college, what existing gap does it address, does it take advantage of strengths and/or opportunities
  - d. If multiple courses, how they fit together and sequencing
  - e. Course level and prerequisites
  - f. Anticipated enrollment capacity in initial semester and subsequent offerings
  - g. Estimated on-going budget required to teach the course after the start-up phase
2. Draft syllabus (pages as needed; need not be complete, but should give sense of what the semester looks like)
3. Completed Budget worksheet (to include justification) for course development

Submit the complete proposal as a single pdf to Laura Van Toll at [laura.vantoll@wisc.edu](mailto:laura.vantoll@wisc.edu) by **4:30 PM on April 3, 2015**.

**Evaluation of Proposals**

A review panel will be convened to evaluate the submitted proposals and make recommendations to the Dean's office for final funding decisions.