Application for Learning Analytics Fellows Program

Deadline: 5:00 p.m. on November 15, 2013
Funding: $2000-$4000 is available for participation in the Winter 2014 Learning Analytics Fellows Program.
Submit Proposals To: la-fellows-W2014apps@umich.edu

During the Winter 2014 term, the Provost's Learning Analytics Task Force will collaborate with CRLT to run the second Learning Analytics Fellows Program. Learning analytics involves the use of academic data for understanding and improving teaching and learning. This Fellows Program will focus specifically on the use of learning analytics at the University of Michigan.

The program will accept applications for two-person teams consisting of some combination of junior (graduate student or postdoctoral scholar) and senior (faculty, staff, and lecturer) Fellows. All faculty, staff, postdoctoral scholars and graduate students, on the Ann Arbor campus, are eligible to apply. To enhance program impact, we expect to favor teams which include at least one senior member.

Fellows will meet weekly (Fridays, from 2-4pm) to discuss learning analytics, available data at U-M, methodological approaches, ethical and privacy issues, and pedagogical implications of projects. They will meet with LA experts both from U-M and other institutions, and are strongly encouraged to attend SLAM seminars (12-1:30pm on alternate Fridays). During the semester, participants will work on small sets of existing data and conduct their own learning analytics research. Senior Fellows will be expected to find an opportunity to present a short report on what they learn about analytics to their unit.

To support this work, each junior fellow will receive a $2000 cash stipend and each senior fellow a $4000 "project grant" in a research account.

Criteria:
- Commitment to attend weekly meetings over the course of the term, participate in the intellectual life of the Fellows Program, and contribute to the UM learning analytics effort
- Contribution to the cross-campus diversity of disciplines in the Fellows community. Potential applicants from the arts, humanities, and professional schools are strongly encouraged to apply.
- Familiarity with at least one aspect of Big Data: quantitative analysis, textual analysis, visualization and/or conceptualization of student data to improve teaching and learning at U-M
- 2013 Fellows are not eligible to apply for the 2014 Fellows Program.

Proposals should be submitted as a single PDF document, including:
1. A completed cover sheet (pages 2 and 3) for each member of your team
2. A 1-2 page CV for each member of your team
3. One brief statement of interest (for the team) in learning analytics, including a description of a project idea the team would like to conduct over the course of the program (1-2 pages). Please tell us about the questions you hope to answer or the tools you would like to develop and list the anticipated data requirements for the project, including terms from the data dictionary if known.

Please send a PDF document containing the above information, as well as your name and contact information to la-fellows-W2014apps@umich.edu, no later than 5pm on November 15th. Participants will be notified of acceptance by the end of business on December 16th.

Learning Analytics Fellows Program Application Cover Sheet

Name

School/College

Department

Status

uniqname

Preferred e-mail

Office phone

Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements*.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
I can write scripts in a programming language of my choice					
I have experience with interface design					
I have experience with data visualization					
I can design valid and reliable surveys					
I can calculate descriptive statistics					
I can do comparative statistical analyses					
I have used SPSS before					
I have used R before					
I write my own code to perform statistical analyses					
I am familiar with the U-M data warehouse					
I am familiar with database structures					
I am familiar with data dictionaries					

*Note: We are looking to create a community with a wide range of skill sets, and do not expect any individual to Strongly Agree with any of these statements.

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