



Background:

Aggie Square, our new educational facility in Sacramento, will enable us to connect to the region, foster expanded and diverse partnerships, advance human health and quality of life. It will also address challenges of, and the potential for, social equity. Launched in Fall 2020, the Quarter at Aggie Square (Q@AS) program enables undergraduate students to focus on topics of societal relevance, working across multiple disciplines, on our urban campus.

Program:

This call invites faculty to propose additional concepts for Quarter at Aggie Square to be considered in the 2021-2022 academic year.

Each quarter, Aggie Square will host to 2-4 coordinated learning experiences, each of which will involve 15-25 students, likely from several majors, in a common enterprise to more deeply understand a specific problem or challenge. To help faculty imagine what they might offer students in the program and to encourage creative ideas beyond those the administration can imagine currently, we issue this call for proposals and invite faculty to communicate concepts that do not quite fit the existing structure of the program.

Features:

- Faculty teams representing at least two majors will create an educational experience for a group of students to spend a quarter in Sacramento, based at Aggie Square, in which they undertake a multi- or transdisciplinary exploration of a common issue.
- Initial cohort instruction and activities will be happening in preliminary spaces on the Health Campus, as the cohorts will begin before the Aggie Square construction is complete. They will likely be open classrooms with whiteboards and flexible seating. There will not be laboratories or advanced technologies available.
- The students¹ would take all their courses that quarter in new classroom space at Aggie Square. Engaged learning opportunities in Sacramento and adjoining communities would be coordinated with academic coursework.
- Internship opportunities linked with the experience.

General Benefits:

Students

- Understand how their own major contributes to solutions for real-world challenges, and they would more deeply appreciate how the insights from one disciplinary perspective can be combined with those from other perspectives.
- They will take their classes with a tight-knit cohort gathered around shared interests, taught by a dedicated group of faculty members.

¹ All discussions of Aggie Square inevitably raise the topic of transportation. A fleet of electric coaches will soon circulate with increased frequency between the Davis and Sacramento campuses. For the sake of planning for the Quarter Away, we assume that even students resident in Davis, on- or off-campus, will be able to commute between the campuses 4-5 days a week for a quarter without difficulty. Residential options are imagined as possible for future phases of Aggie Square.



Faculty

- New relationships with an interdisciplinary cohort of faculty
- Enhanced capacity to build and sustain long-term relationships with community partners
- The opportunity to mentor undergraduate students engaging in contributions to real-world challenges

Community

- Enhance capacity to build and sustain long-term relationships with the UC Davis community to better connect and collaborate
- Engage with students and work together to contribute to solutions for real-world challenges

Topics of Consideration

A Q@AS experience should offer participating students the opportunity to confront an issue that is challenging, one that requires thinking from multi-disciplinary perspectives, and one that directly relates to the improvement of human, societal, or planetary health or well-being.

These might include:

- Economic development and quality job creation in the Sacramento region
- Urban Planning and Development.
- Social transformation, lifting up neighborhoods and moving beyond gentrification gap.
- Bringing Patents to Market: each year our UC Davis faculty discover new inventions that have the potential to improve human life. After they are patented, however, many do not reach users. A course sequence at Q@AS could explore the varied expertise required for a new invention to positively impact people's lives.
- Food Security: What are the technological, social, and geographic conditions that create unequal access to safe and healthy food? How might we think about new solutions to the problem from a scientific, policy, and/or cultural point of view?

Request for Proposals Requirements

Part A: Programmatic

1. Project Description- 2 pages including supporting documents
 - a. It is expected that faculty will use the grant to work out the details for a proposed collaborative quarter. To apply, faculty should present a topic or issue that would be the focus of the quarter-away experience through a narrative of no more than 2 pages. We hope that the faculty would represent at least two departments of majors. Cross-college collaborations are encouraged but not required.
 - b. Proposals should explain how this integrated experience enhances the educational experience for students in each of the majors, and how courses from each major contribute to the interdisciplinary investigation of the problem or issue.
2. Describe Activities- 2-3 pages – This can include lecture/speaker series, internships, research or other experiential education exposure



3. Draft Budget-Each proposal should include a budget, not to exceed 25k, that would enable the team to develop and elaborate the concept to the point that it could be launched (pending any necessary approvals).
4. Teaching Faculty- Provide a list of faculty and their home departments. Written commitment from participating faculty that they will be able to teach courses once per year for 3 years.
5. Courses- List of Courses and number of units

Part B: Letters of Support

1. Partner/Community Organizations Letter (s)– including interest, and ability to offer internships positions
2. Faculty Chairs Letter- Chairs would be expressing their support for the concept. Clearly, once the proposals are reviewed and some selected to go through the full planning process, we will at the appropriate moment work with the cognizant deans and chairs involved in the selected program to evaluate what additional resources would be required to mount that particular Q@AS such that the participating departments would continue to be able to offer courses necessary to their majors on the Davis campus.
3. If faculty creating a proposal or their chairs know of any potential sources for support for a particular theme, we would appreciate learning of it in the proposal.

Submit proposals to the review Committee at qas@ucdavis.edu.

After submission: Principals should expect a response to their proposal within 30 days of submission. We would hope that revisions, if necessary, could be submitted within 60 days of notification regarding the initial proposal. Revised proposals should receive notification of a final outcome within two weeks of submission.

- QAS team reviews draft proposal Provides feedback for revisions (if necessary) (30 Days)
- Revisions submitted (60 Days)
- Approval/denial (14 Days)