Chart Smart

College of Liberal Arts

Chart Smart is CLA Program in the analysis and representation of data, aimed at strengthening student abilities to understand, construct, critique, and explain numerical and statistical relationships presented in graphic form (charts, graphs, tables, diagrams, grids). The program will support the development of units, modules, or templates that may be used within a single course, across sections of a course, or across courses in multiple disciplines to deepen understanding of a particular body of data through its graphic representation; to explore the biases within common structures for the presentation of data; to promote critical consumption of data; or to develop student abilities to comprehend, interpret, and explain graphic data. Opportunities to participate in Chart Smart are available to all disciplines, and faculty may conceive of projects within frameworks emphasizing primarily data analysis or within contexts designed to promote multimodal writing (assuming this term may be applied to graphic representations of data as well as other non-alphabetic visual elements).

CLA will make available modest incentive grants to faculty interested in developing course materials aligned with the goals of Chart Smart.

* These grants will be available during the 2013-2014 academic year with the understanding that the bulk of any project work will be done before June 30, 2014.
* Grants will normally be $1000 for a proposed project based on a faculty commitment to at least forty hours of project work.
* Faculty may propose projects individually, in teams, or in combinations of related projects across disciplines (linked by topical theme or by pedagogical purpose).
* Results must be made available for sharing with interested colleagues across the college, and a copy (probably digital) must be provided to the dean.

Faculty may propose a Chart Smart project to the dean with a concise statement of plan and intent, delivered through the chair. These should normally be one-page proposals, but faculty should take the space needed to describe the project to a standard of clarity that suits them. Proposals may be submitted at any time.

The College will seek to remain flexible in any guidelines for this program in order to place emphasis on supporting interesting and creative projects as they emerge.