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BILCN-Research (Building Integrated Learning and Coaching Networks for Research) Program Summary

**The BILCN-Research is a 6-9 month, cohort-based research development program that develops SLU faculty’s networks and skills needed to advance their research agenda and effectively compete for external funding.**

**Applications are now being accepted at the following link:**

[**2024 BILCN-Research Program**](https://slu.secure-platform.com/a/solicitations/148/home)

The BILCN-Research Program is in its 4th year of integrated research development, blending workshops with SLU facilitators, peer-led coaching and accountability groups, and independent faculty work.

Faculty participants are selected by a committee of faculty members and must be high-potential, full-time SLU faculty who have not received major external funding awards in the past 3-5 years but have active research agendas, research experience, and a project for which they will seek major external funding. Prospective participants are expected to have a proposal-ready research project in preparation, if not in progress, to utilize the program.

Once selected, participants are assigned to interdisciplinary Coaching Groups, each of which is led by a faculty Coach and supported by the OVPR Strategist. General oversight comes from a SLU faculty Research Council; executive leadership is the role of the faculty Leads. The Leads, Strategist, and Coaches work with internal and external Workshop Facilitators to deliver integrated content, coaching, and support for participants’ proposal development work.

The estimated time commitment for participants is 6-8 workshops, including an orientation, as well as regular meetings with a coaching group and individual work for a total of about 2-4 hours per week. The expected outcome for all participants is submission of an external grant proposal within approximately 1 year.

**Integrated Modules Model**

The program is divided into modules, each of which consists of workshop(s) that are integrated with Coaching Group meetings and activities and focus on different, sequential parts of the proposal development process. All participants meet together for Workshops and separately in individual Coaching Groups to work on integrated and related content, with peer feedback and accountability. Each module requires 1-1.5 months to complete. Modules may include: Defining a Research Agenda, Project, and Network; Finding Collaborators, Mentors, and Funders; Proposal Development; The Review Process; and Funded Research Preview. The cohort may divide for funder-specific content for some modules, i.e., NIH, NSF, NEH, and other external funding opportunities.

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| **Module** | **Workshop** | **Independent Work** | **Coaching Groups** |
| Introduction | Introduction & Cohort Building |  | Introductions |
| **Defining an Agenda, Project, and Network** | Concept Mapping  Logic Mapping  Research Overviews | Creating Concept Maps  Creating Logic Maps  Creating Research Overviews | Discussion of Mentor Networks  Review and Discussion of Concept Maps and Logic Maps |
| **Finding Collaborators, Mentors, and Funders** | Finding Funding Opportunities  Making Revisions:  Reformulating Concept Maps, Logic Maps, and Overviews | Identifying and Assessing Potential Funders | Mentor Networks for Specific Projects  Identifying Collaborators |
| **Proposal Development** | Proposal Components: General and Funder-Specific | Revision of Logic Maps and Research Overviews  Proposal Outlining  Component Drafting | Research Overviews, Identifying Gaps, Preliminary Data, Methodology  Peer reviewing components |
| **The Review Process** | Review Criteria and Review Process | Complete Draft Proposal and Submit for Mock Review | Mock Review Panel by Coaches and Researchers |
| **Funded Research Preview** | What To Do If You Are Funded – And If You Are Not | Proposal Revision and Submission | Ongoing Peer Feedback and Support  Sharing Experiences revising and resubmitting, as well as administering grants by Coaches |

If you have any questions, please reach out to Joe Lampe, Program Coordinator, at [joseph.lampe@slu.edu](mailto:joseph.lampe@slu.edu).