VERTICALLY INTEGRATED PROJECTS

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Vertically Integrated Projects

University of Arizona

- **A Research 1 University**
  In FY23, $950 million in research expenditure & 400+ research doctoral degrees conferred.

- **A Hispanic-Serving University**
  In FY23, 25% of undergraduates were Hispanic/Latinx.

- **VIP Began in Fall 2020**
  Entering our fifth year this Fall
Student Snapshot - Spring 2024

Historic and Projected Student Participation in VIP Since UA VIP Launch

Student Participation in VIP by Academic Level

- Higher growth with historic financial support
- Lower growth with current minimal financial support

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VIP Teams are Accessible to Students

VIP Participation Among Selected Student Demographic Groups.
Blue horizontal lines show the current level of representation of the group among UArizona students.

Students represent 105 unique majors from 17 (out of 22) UA colleges.

Faculty Team Leads represent 15 UA colleges, 3 additional campus units & 4 external partners.
We aim to have 10% of our VIP students supported by Federal Work-Study (FWS)

In Spring 2024, 313 VIP students
22 FWS students – 7%

How it works:
• Team selects a student who is FWS-eligible
• VIP hires them at 10hrs/wk, $15.00/hr
• VIP pays 25% of salary (Federal government pays 75%) + Student employee-related expenses (2% of the 25%) + a 10% overhead fee. Per 2–week pay period, avg cost per student = $106.50
Central Program Support: Current and Future

“Seed Grant” to start program, parlayed into Institutional Funding, reorganized under university fiscal stress

Jan 2022-June 2023
Provost Investment Fund (competitive internal funding)

July 2023-June 2024
Provost Office Central Funding (All Funds Budget)

FY25
Under new UR Organization, funded by Combo of Offices of Provost and Research (Joint)

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Three Major Challenges our Rapidly Growing VIP Program is Facing

1. Credit Models & Curricular Engagement Across a Broad Variety of Fields

2. FWS Administrative Support Demands

3. Supporting Faculty and Students in Team Growth
   - Seeding New Teams
   - Supporting Teams to Grow Larger
### Credit Models & Curricular Engagement Across a Broad Variety of Fields

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credit Models</th>
<th>In-Major Directed Research (e.g. BIOC-392)</th>
<th>Central Directed Research (e.g. UNIV-392)</th>
<th>Layered Course Attributes (e.g. &quot;Res Exp Course&quot;)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student Clarity</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dept/College Clarity</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tracking &amp; Assessment</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>High (no paid)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Question:** How do you balance degree-specific credit with easy student tracking and assessment?
Federal Work-Study (FWS) Administrative Support Demands

Challenge 1: Hiring students into FWS positions
- Team-specific criteria
- FWS eligibility is opaque

Challenge 2: Paperwork trails
- Central time approval and employment but no direct oversight of hours
- Multiple VIP accounts fund different groups of students

Challenge 3: Summer turnover for FWS
- New paperwork
- Need budget early to make commitments

Question: How does your program incentivize writing student paid support for VIP team participation into grants?
Supporting Faculty and Students in Team Growth

Seeding New Teams
• Small seed grants in our VIP budget
• Team sustainability is a criteria
• Still limitations for expensive projects (relies on other grant funding by PI for project)

Supporting Teams to Grow Larger
• Need Graduate Assistants to run larger teams
• Open door, community science VIP (online or in-person, analysis focused)

Question: How do you encourage non-STEM faculty and staff to launch VIP teams?
Question: How do you support growth of existing teams?
Our Discussion Questions for the Audience!

**Credit**: How do students receive general and/or degree-specific credit for VIP research activities?

**Employment**: How do you incentivize writing student paid support for VIP team participation into grants?

**Breadth of Experiences**: How do you encourage non-STEM faculty and staff to launch VIP teams?

**Growth**: How do you support growth of existing teams?

Visit our UA VIP Webpage! Scan here:

Vertically Integrated Projects

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