



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Religion and Health Curriculum Grant

Opportunity

Research shows that engaging religious identity in health care settings improves health outcomes and decreases the margins of health inequities.¹ However, health field students and faculty alike report feeling underprepared and undereducated when it comes to religious diversity. While religion is often named as one element that may shape a patient's identity, it is rarely discussed with the depth or breadth required to prepare students for the ever-increasing religious diversity they will inevitably encounter in their professions.

Interfaith America has seen a growing interest from health field faculty in preparing their health students with basic religious literacy, skills to engage across lines of religious difference, and practice discussing religion with patients and colleagues. In response to this need, fruitful relationships have developed between religion departments and health programs. In seeking to grow these partnerships, Interfaith America is excited to offer \$4,000 grants to teams of health and religion faculty to create religious diversity curriculum for courses in health fields.

Program Overview

We invite pairs of educators, one from a health field and one from a religious studies field, to apply for a \$4,000 grant to design or significantly revise a health field course(s) that engages religious identity and diversity. The course must be offered in the 2023-24 academic year. The funds will be split between the educators and are intended as support for their time and energy.

Below are specific examples, requirements, and deliverables for the 2023-2024 grants.

- Examples include but are not limited to:

¹ See "Leveraging the Power of Religious Diversity in Health Fields" in *The Journal of College and Character* by Carolyn Roncolato [<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/2194587X.2022.2087685>].



- A course on religious diversity and/or interfaith leadership for health field students
- A module or unit within a pre-existing course on religious identity and diversity
- Scenarios, case studies, or role-playing scripts to be used in courses
- Eligibility:
 - This funding is reserved for educators at 2- and 4-year colleges and universities. Educators include faculty (tenured, contingent, adjunct, contract, and part-time) and staff or administrators who teach courses for academic credit.
 - The course must be offered in the 2023-24 academic year.
 - We will prioritize applications that demonstrate strong collaboration between religion and health departments, show promise of sustainable curricular interventions, create curriculum that impacts a high percentage of students, teaches the skills of interfaith engagement, embeds religious diversity in pre-health curricula, and prepares students to engage religious diversity in deep and nuanced ways.
- Grant Requirements:
 - Use at least three resources from Interfaith America. These can include our health field case studies, interfaith leadership training, audio or video programming related to faith and health, relevant articles featured on *Interfaith America Magazine*, or other resources.
 - Attend one two-hour virtual workshop led by Interfaith America on Interfaith Studies and Health at the launch of the grant period (dates and times TBA).
 - Participate in a mid-grant phone call with IA staff about the project progress.
 - Attend two cohort calls with other grantees (fall and spring semesters AY 23/24).
 - Submit a final report that includes the curricular materials developed through the grant and the deliverables detailed below.
- Deliverables: In conjunction with the final report outlining learnings and impact, each campus team of grantees will submit BOTH the syllabus/curriculum created AND **two** of the following materials:
 - Annotated bibliography of resources used in the course or its preparation



- Submission to Interfaith America Magazine that highlights a story related to the grant experience
 - Materials related to submission and/or acceptance of a conference presentation/poster or peer-reviewed article
 - Three case studies created by grantee or students for use on the Interfaith America faith and health resource hub
 - Any other resource created in conjunction with the grant and approved by IA staff
- Funding Information

The \$4,000 grant will be split between the two educators. Each educator will receive the first \$1,000 after attending the initial workshop in spring 2023 and the second \$1,000 after submitting the final report and deliverables in summer 2024. The grant is intended as support for the grantees' time and energy. It is not intended to be spent on costs related to the project. The grantee is responsible for understanding and navigating their institutional or organizational grant processes. Additionally, those who receive funding may receive a 1099 tax form at the end of the year.

To Apply

Please complete the application at this link - <https://interfaithamerica.tfaforms.net/4982010>

Applications are due March 31st, 2023

Racial Equity Commitment

As a part of our commitment to racial equity, Interfaith America, and the staff who steward our grants look to integrate thought partners with diverse racial backgrounds throughout the process of the grant- from creation to outreach, applications, implementation, and feedback. We are intentional about reaching out to new communities and partners and thinking critically about racial diversity in the applicant and acceptance pools.

Program Timeline

- March 31st, 2023: The application period closes



- April 15th, 2023: Grantees are notified of their selection
- May-June 2023 (specific dates and times TBA): Grantees attend workshop
- Fall 2023 - Spring 2024 (specific dates and times TBA): Grantees attend cohort calls
- January 2024: Grantees provide a mid-term report on their projects
- June 30, 2024: Final reports and deliverables are due

For further information, please contact croncolato@interfaithamerica.org