

COURSE DEVELOPMENT

DavidsonLearns' goal is to enhance the intellectual life of adults by providing a selection of challenging, diverse, and relevant courses and, in so doing, form a community of learners. Our volunteer instructors are motivated by their desire to share their knowledge and facilitate thoughtful discussions on academic topics. Instructors should feel free to propose courses in which they alone are leading the classes and courses in which they organize a series of guest speakers or panelists.

Thank you for your interest in teaching a course for DavidsonLearns. We appreciate your willingness to volunteer your time and effort to enhance the lives of our adult learners.

Adult learners

Our students are brought together by their intellectual curiosity and love of learning. As you plan your course, it's helpful to keep in mind some characteristics of adult learners:

- They are self-motivated and self-directed.
- They bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the class.
- They enjoy being engaged in the content and participating in discussion.
- They want to integrate new ideas with existing knowledge.

Course Timing

We have two semesters: Winter/Spring (January through May) and Fall (September through November). Traditional Courses vary in length of time, typically from 4-6 sessions for 1.5 to 2 hours each. Mini-Courses are typically 2-3 sessions for 1.5 to 2 hours each.

Proposal Process

Interested instructors are asked to submit proposals through the online form or by downloading the Course Proposal Form (a Word document) and emailing the completed form to the Curriculum Committee chair at curr-design@davidsonlearns.org. Please find this information under [COURSE PROPOSAL FORM](#).

Submitting Proposals: We have a proposal deadline for both of our semesters to give us time to balance course offerings between academic disciplines and previously taught versus new offerings. The proposal deadline for our Winter/Spring semester is September 30. The proposal deadline for our Fall semester is May 15.

Acceptance of Proposals: The Curriculum Committee reviews the proposals, often working with the instructor to address questions that have emerged, after which the proposal is sent to the DavidsonLearns board for approval. We choose among the approved courses to create the schedule for the upcoming semester, with the goal of finalizing that semester's courses as soon as possible after the proposal deadline for that semester.

Next Steps

Scheduling: Each instructor's day and time preferences, electronic needs, and course size will be taken into account in scheduling the course, and each instructor will be contacted to see if the proposed location and time is acceptable.

Publicity: A few months before the semester starts, local publicity will begin. The course offerings will also be listed on our website, although registration does not open until the designated publicized day.

Registration: Registration opens approximately one month before an upcoming semester. Please see [MEMBERSHIP & REGISTRATION](#) for registration details.

Course Reminder email: A reminder email will be sent to instructors approximately 3 weeks before their course begins.

Questions or concerns: Please email the Curriculum Committee chair at curr-design@davidsonlearns.org.