

UW-L RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATION COVER SHEET

for grant period July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

1. Title of Project: Academic Benefits of Living on Campus: A look at Peer Influences and Utilization of University Provided Resources
2. Applicant: James M. Murray
 - a. Name: James M. Murray
 - b. Department: Department of Economics
 - c. Rank: Assistant Professor
 - d. Tenure (circle one) Yes No (X)
 - e. Years of Service: Less than 1.
3. Synopsis of proposed research – do not exceed the space provided

This research quantifies the academic benefits, as measured by improvements in grade point average (GPA), to college students living on campus and investigates why they may perform better in school. The project will proceed in two directions. The first step is to identify university provided resources (libraries, tutors, computer technology, university sponsored extracurricular activities, etc) that on-campus students are likely to take greater advantage of than off-campus students, and then quantify the impact on GPA. The second step is to identify differences in peer influences and interactions, and then quantify this impact on GPA. Peer interactions that will be investigated include: collaborative studying with friends and/or classmates, engagement in drug and alcohol consumption, and peers' and roommates' engagement in drug and alcohol consumption. Using a procedure called Instrumental Variable Regression, care will be taken in the methodology to insure the results imply living on-campus *causes* (instead of is merely correlated with) different habits and behaviors that may positively influence academic performance.

4. Total amount requested: \$5,000
5. Will this proposal be submitted to another potential funding source? If yes, indicate where, when and the amount that will be/has been requested. No.
6. Past faculty research funding (list project titles and funding years): None.
7. Compliance with regulations: Indicate whether this proposal requires review for the following:
 - a. Human Subjects Yes No (X)
 - b. Animal Care Yes No (X)
 - c. Hazardous biological materials Yes No (X)
 - d. Hazardous chemical materials Yes No (X)

If you have circled "Yes" for the any of the compliance items, you are responsible for obtaining approval from the appropriate committee or office prior to beginning your research. For additional information, please see <http://www.uwlax.edu/grants/pages/compliances/compliances.htm>