UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON
TACOMA

Student Technology Fee Committee (STFC)
Annual Allocation Request

ALLOCATION REQUEST DATE INFORMATION

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ALLOCATION REQUEST TITLE/DESCRIPTION

Request Title: Makerspace Supplies

Request Description: A request for funding to purchase supplies for students to use the equipment in the Makerspace.

ALLOCATION REQUEST INFORMATION

Department Name:	UW Tacoma Library	Request Code:	26A0530
Contact Names:	Tim Bostelle	UW Tacoma Affiliation:	Staff
UWT Email Address:	tbostell@uw.edu	Phone Number:	2-4650
Title of Request:	Makerspace Supplies	Type of Request:	One Time

Department Head Approval: ✔   Department Head: Kaijsa Calkins

Annual Request Information

1. Background: Review and discuss the context of the proposed technology in detail. Explain how this proposal will be used in conjunction with an original proposal or existing technology. If applicable, how is the current technology disabled or inadequate?

Last fiscal year STFC awarded the Makerspace $4,500 for supplies. These supplies pay for filament for the 3D printers, paper and ink for the poster printers, sticker paper for sticker making, supplies for the sewing machines, paints for minifig painting, beads for bracelet making, and other things for students to use to make things in the Makerspace. So far, in Fall quarter of 2025 we have already spent $2,027.49 for supplies for the Makerspace.

Three factors account for that spending: a 174% increase in use, the STFC transfer of 3D printing from the computer labs to the Makerspace, and poster printing expenses.

Increased use:

If we compare stats for Fall Quarter 2024 to Fall Quarter 2025 the number of students checking in to the Makerspace went from 210 in 2024 to 575 in 2025. That is a 174% increase in users. And to give that even more context: the total number of users in 2024 was 741. We have almost hit that number in one quarter. If that number seems low to you, one thing you should consider is that a number of services, like 3D printing, can only have 1-2 users per day. And 3D printing has seen the biggest increase of any of our services: the number of bookings (students need to reserve the 3D printers to use them) went from 56 in Fall 2024 to 200 in Fall 2025! That's a 257% increase. And the number of booked hours has increased from 180 total hours in Fall 2024 to 656 total hours in Fall 2025. That's a 264% increase in usage. Our 3D printers are extremely popular. All of the other services have also increased in popularity: Poster/Sticker making is up 105%, sewing machine usage is also up 117%.

3D Printing:

The reason this expense has been so large is because the 3D printer we were given in Summer 2025 needed some repairs. It had been used so much in the previous year (2024/25) that we needed to replace three major parts (the print plate, the extruder, and one of the intake gears on the AMS). 3D printing has also been the most popular program in the Makerspace, having grown 257% in usage in just one quarter.

Poster Printing:

We also needed to purchase quite a few supplies for the poster printer. $1062 has been spent on paper and ink for the poster printer in Fall 2025. It's very popular and it helps students because if you needed to pay for a 24x36 poster for a poster session it would cost $25-50 each.

Conclusion:

As you can tell from the increase in activity, the Makerspace is an incredibly popular and useful service for students. However, to account for the increase in users, the additional 3D printers, and the use of the poster printer, we need to have at least $6,000 for supplies for fiscal year 2026/27. That is a modest increase of just 33% over the allocation for 2025/26. BUT, if we keep spending the way that we do on the Poster Printer, that will account for over half of the $6000. The Library made a purchase out of our own funds to help trim the costs of the Poster Printer (see Resources/Budget) and further reductions are going to be necessary in order to continue to provide this beloved service to the students. However, increases in filament use and increased costs for all supplies will need to be covered in the next budget.

2. Benefit to Students: Discuss how students have (for returning applicants) or will (for new applicants) benefit from this technology. How will additional funding of the technology benefit students?

Students have used the 3D printers to make school projects (one calculus class made students make a model), for fun, as art for their family and friends, and as rapid prototype models for their projects.

Students have also used the poster printer to make posters for poster sessions at the end of the quarter. Each of these has saved individual students $20-50 for each session. RSOs often use the poster printer for advertising events. And students have used poster printers to make posters for their apartments/dorms.

The sewing machines are used to repair clothing and to create new pieces (several students have made bags and other original pieces in Fall quarter).

The sticker maker is also very popular and students are using it to make decorations for their laptops or to give away as gifts for their friends or even as stickers to put on their drones and other school projects.

These are just four examples. All of the items that the Makerspace supplies grant funds, goes to students and directly benefits them by providing them with equipment, experience, and even fun.

3. Access: Describe who will be using or will have access to the resources being proposed. In addition, all previous requestors, please provide historic data highlighting the usage and accessibility of technology. All new requestors, please provide user need data.

Students will be the only people allowed to use STFC funded equipment and supplies.

Usage data Fall Quarter 2025

- The number of students checking into the Makerspace went from 210 in 2024 to 575 in 2025. That is a 174% increase in users.
- 3D printing has seen the biggest increase of any of our services: the number of bookings (students need to reserve the 3D printers to use them) went from 56 in Fall 2024 to 200 in Fall 2025! That's a 257% increase.
  - And the number of booked hours has increased from 180 total hours in Fall 2024 to 656 total hours in Fall 2025.
  - That's a 264% increase in usage.
- Poster/Sticker making is up 105% over the previous year
- Sewing machine usage is also up 117%.

4. Timeline: Provide a timeline showing how the proposed technology can be completed during the requested period. Describe when you would like to see this proposal initiated and completed, and why.

Supplies are purchased as needed. Any left over money is automatically re-absorbed into the STF budget at the end of the fiscal year.

We would like to start purchasing supplies as soon as funds are made available.

5. Resources/Budget: Discuss available financial, personnel and space resources devoted to the proposed technology and level of support. Proposal must detail all the items/resources requested to be purchased. This includes filling out the Item Detail in next section.

The library supports the makerspace by providing personnel (full time staff, Tim Bostelle), infrastructure, space, procedures, safety, training, expertise, materials, equipment, marketing, and programming as well as library circulation services within our library of tools.

The library also provides $1000 to cover some expenses for things like the vinyl for the vinyl cutter and other things that students, staff, and faculty can use in the space. This fall, the library purchased a dedicated printer for the sticker-maker so that we could help reduce the cost and burden on the Poster Printer.

Detailed list of all items purchased in Fall quarter (both funded by STFC and by the Library) can be furnished on request.

Funding Request Items

Item	QTY	Cost Per Item	Shipping Fee	Tax Per Item	Subtotal
Makerspace supplies Block Grant	1	$6,000.00	$0.00	$0.00	$6,000.00
				OVERALL TOTAL:	$6,000.00