Class Proposal Suggestions

The PAWS University committee has created this document to help you write your class proposal. Below are ideas, tips, examples of class titles and advertisements, and other helpful information you can use. Click on a link in the table of contents to navigate the document or simply scroll through the pages to find the information you seek. If you have additional questions, please contact paws@unk.edu.

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General Ideas & Suggestions

What are you interested in? What are you passionate about? What is something that you know a lot about and enjoy sharing with others? We want you to teach a class that you want to teach. If you’re stuck, look at other programs being held at significant museums, organizations, etc. in other cities. Check out what these other educational summer programs are offering. Each class needs to be engaging and educational!

Engaging and Educational

Create a class that students are going to want to attend and parents are going to want to send their kids to. We suggest you think about (or research) what a certain age group is interested in and then create a learning opportunity around that interest. A few examples would be:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Engaging</th>
<th>Educational</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Kindergartners &amp; 1st graders like to watch “Wild Kratts”</td>
<td>Grade 1-2 PAWS U class that studies a different animal each day, learning about their special characteristics. Students then “become” that animal through various activities (e.g. STEM activity to build the longest elephant trunk; color blending to camouflage their gecko skin).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current 2nd &amp; 3rd graders like reading the book series I Survived</td>
<td>Grade 3-4 PAWS U class that incorporates historical events and the best way to survive those events using science, outdoor survival techniques, or other information.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current 4th &amp; 5th graders love all things YouTube</td>
<td>Grade 5-6 PAWS U class that discusses vlogging, internet safety, video technology, and marketing a YouTube channel. Throughout the week students create their own “YouTube channel” and a marketing plan.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Here are a few areas of interest we have recently collected from kids and parents. Add the education piece to form a class proposal!

- Food: Cooking competitions; Candy making; Healthy living & eating
- Sports: the history; numbers; plays; sports + technology; intro to sports medicine
- History: presidents; states; dinosaurs; Elvis and retro music
- Mythology
- Outdoor/survival skills
- Inventing
- Mystery solving
- Gardening/canning
- Science: slime, rocks, magnets, Effects of temperature
- Fantasy: magic, dragons
- Musicals/theater
- Television shows: Expedition Unknown, Who Was?, Mythbusters
- Art: Zen Tangle/marker art, origami, seasonal crafts

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Class Titles and Advertisements

Here are a few class titles and advertisements that the PAWS University committee view as exemplary. They grabbed students’ and parents’ attention by emphasized both the engaging and educational aspects of the class.

**Slime Science** - Journey through science with slime! Each day will feature a different slime that you will use as a model to explore the world around us. Crunchy slime and the rock cycle. Corn starch slime and glacier Olympics. Join us and become a master in slime science!

**Real Art in the Real World** - Did you know that art is everywhere you look? Clothes. Signs. Cereal Boxes. Art is everywhere! Forget the box of crayons. In this class you will use 2D and 3D design, as well as computers, to create logos, packaging, and t-shirts. Be a Real Artist!

**Wild Art** - Create art inspired by the wild while finding amazing answers to questions about wild life! Create a giraffe sculpture and learn how they grew to be so tall and what sounds they make. Paint a mixed media seahorse and learn about how and why they swim the way they do. Spend a week in the wild and create amazing works of wild art!

**Computer Programming 101** - Create your very own creative story...with computer programming! Customize your characters, create a magic world, and share your creativity with others through specialized computer software. Your imagination will come to life as you create vivid and captivating stories while learning basic computer programming!

Class Title Suggestions

Think of your title as your first chance to hook students and parents. It should convey the purpose of the class while also establishing interest level. You’ll want to keep your title somewhere between two and six words long. Keep it short, but grab their attention.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Okay Title</th>
<th>Better Title</th>
<th>What makes it better?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cooking Up Creations</td>
<td>Kitchen Concoctions</td>
<td>More concise, captures attention (alliteration), uses kid-friendly language, sounds interesting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Adventures in Outer Space | Space Quest | More concise, sounds more exciting & action packed
---|---|---
| STEM Challenges | Brilliant Builders | Uses kid-friendly language, captures attention (alliteration), action-oriented

**Class Advertisement Suggestions**
The advertisement is what will “sell” your class. Therefore, both the parents and the kids need to be targeted. Look for the following three things in your advertisement. In short, develop an advertisement that makes your class sound *fun, interactive, and educational.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Kid Friendly</strong></th>
<th><strong>Parent Attention</strong></th>
<th><strong>Language Usage</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Advertisements are written for the students. Peak their interest, use language they will understand, and help them to picture themselves in your class. Capture their attention with words that are familiar and appealing. | Make sure the educational element comes through in your advertisement. Yes, we want students to have fun, but we also want to ensure that they are *learning* something in this class. | Include action verbs in your advertisement. You do not need to describe your entire lesson outline, but provide enough interest/detail to hook parents and students. Examples of words to use: *Create, Write, Think, Explore, Listen, Read, Observe, Discover, Plan, Build, Launch.* |

**Grades 1-2 Example**
Explore how science makes our food delicious! Use common recipes, ingredients, and kitchen tools to *measure, mix,* cook, and bake. **Taste-test** your experiments and become a top chef! Learn the science behind your food!

**Grades 3-4 Example**
Challenge your brain and *test your skills* in Lego Brain Quest! Explore problems using Legos as the solution. Change your brain by creating innovative strategies that can be applied in and out of the classroom. This is an ideal workshop for Lego enthusiasts!

**Grades 5-6 Example**
Put your creativity and engineering abilities to the test as you *build* your very own hot air balloon and mouse trap race car. Collect data, make modifications, and *challenge* your classmates. How high and how fast can you go?
Campus Connection

A campus connection can be anything/anyone on the UNK campus that/who will enrich your class. If your class is selected, the PAWS U Committee will help to set up the connection. The goal of the campus connection is to:

1. Add to the engagement and/or education of your class
2. Help students become more familiar with and comfortable on UNK’s campus
3. Highlight possible careers/career fields for students

Past Examples of Campus Connections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walked around campus with iPads</td>
<td>To take pictures of buildings so they could reconstruct them in class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visit from a math professor</td>
<td>To learn about KenKen problem solving strategies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taught soccer drills by UNK soccer players</td>
<td>To learn about the role soccer plays in the Spanish culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visited the UNK Cyber Systems Department</td>
<td>To tour the department and learn about all the careers available in the computer science field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explored the greenhouse on campus</td>
<td>To take photos of the flower petals they saw and then make those petals out of origami paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toured the backstage areas with the UNK Theater Department</td>
<td>To learn about what it takes to put on a show and to work in theater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visited the G.W. Frank House</td>
<td>To learn about museum work and local history while touring the museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hosted Crazy Meek the Frontiersman</td>
<td>To learn about life on the frontier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viewed experiments by a UNK Chemistry professor</td>
<td>To learn about various aspects of science and chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visited various bridges on campus</td>
<td>To note the different structures, supports, and kinds of bridges employed. They then used this knowledge to construct their own/reconstruct these creations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listened to a reading in the Calvin T. Ryan Library</td>
<td>To be immersed in the campus library and to hear a story related to that day’s activity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other Ideas for Campus Connections

Invite a member of a specific department to your class to enhance a particular activity, share possible career options, or something else the faculty member suggests. Ideas for departments to reach out to:

- English
- Art
- Biology
- Cyber Systems
- Marketing
- Aviation
- ANY academic department on campus!

Visit other key locations on campus, such as:

- Planetarium
- Bruner Hall pendulum
- New STEM building
- Bell tower
- Gym
- Amphitheater
- Sculptures
- Radio Station
- Foster Field
- Aquaponics system
- Dorm rooms
- Dam
- Student Union

Think beyond academic departments, such as:

- Campus Police
- UNK Dining Services
- UNK Athletics
- Student Organizations
- International Studies/Student Services
- Facilities: electricity, recycling, water treatment