

LSI Extended Capability Statement 2009

The Learning Sciences Institute (LSI) at Vanderbilt University (<http://peabody.vanderbilt.edu/lsi.xml>) is dedicated to stimulating and supporting research and development in learning, teaching, curriculum, assessment, policy, and educational design. The LSI supports interdisciplinary teams of faculty and students from across the university to address basic and applied learning sciences in ways that create new knowledge, foster the development of the science of teaching, improve preK-16 education, and enhance the quality of undergraduate, graduate, and faculty learning. The institute's work extends beyond the usual university focus on research and development to explore how results can best be used in society, especially in institutions of formal and informal education, as well as the world of work.

The LSI was established in 2003 and has since hosted more than 94 research and training projects with external funding exceeding \$119 million from agencies such as the United States Department of Education, the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Health, and a number of major private foundations.

The LSI is directed by Stephen N. Elliott, PhD, and staffed with experienced budget managers, a grants resource officer, data management and analysis specialists, videographer, and webmaster/communication specialist. The LSI is located in the Wyatt Center on the Peabody campus of Vanderbilt University. LSI's business office is comprised of an *Administrative Officer* and four administrative assistants that provide project Principal Investigators with budgetary, accounting, and human resource services, as well as guidance in preparation of human subjects' protocols and coordination of other administrative matters.

A *Grants Resource and Information Officer* (GRIO) assists with project development, providing editorial and technical assistance. The GRIO also serves as a public information specialist, assisting in the dissemination of research and development findings through the LSI website (<http://peabody.vanderbilt.edu/lsi.xml>), the university news service, and coordinating information to the national media. The GRIO is available to assist in coordinating web development and backup for LSI projects.

A *Database Specialist* (DBS) assists with planning for project needs specifically or broadly related to data. During the pre-award stage, these needs often include selection of statistical methods, power analysis, and consideration of requirements for the protection of human subjects. During the post-award stage, these needs may include consultation on the development and validation of assessment tools; on collecting, cleaning, and storing data; and on data analysis. The DBS's role is to provide guidance on these and related matters, and to assist investigators in contacting experts for needs in specialized areas.

A *Multimedia Specialist* (MMS) assists with digital video in designing, creating, and updating education video materials. The MMS also consults with personnel (faculty, staff, researchers, students) on design and production of media services. The MMS plans, scripts, and creates digital video recordings for web delivery; provides post-production services; digitizes edits, finalizes, and distributes digital video work products. The MMS is available to research, install, operate, and maintain equipment and software related to video production for projects. The MMS is also available for training of support staff and other equipment users, and provides occasional desktop support to departmental personnel.