

The Student Academic Affairs Board (SAAB) of Lewis & Clark College is a very unique body – possibly the only of its kind on a US college campus – composed of one student representative from every academic department. The Board meets weekly to discuss issues of academic concern to students. These issues include curriculum, the academic calendar, senior capstone experiences, faculty retention, and general education requirements.

As a part of Lewis & Clark's student government, SAAB submits and procures recommendations to and from faculty and administrative boards regarding the above issues. The Vice President for Student Academic Affairs, chair of SAAB, holds positions on the Curriculum Committee, Board of Trustees, and the Student Executive Council, thus acting as a liaison between students, faculty, and administration. In addition, Board members engage their departments in dialogue on current campus issues and communicate these discussions to SAAB.

SAAB was created on February 22, 1982, by a vote of the student body. The current student council felt that SAAB would foster more student-faculty interaction, inspire students to become more actively involved in their education, and promote student-motivated independent projects. Students, faculty, and staff helped to make SAAB a body that would benefit all and encourage campus unity.

Since its creation, SAAB has become a well-respected board campuswide. It has fostered departmental unity by sponsoring departmental meetings, solicited beneficial student input on faculty retention and senior experiences, and created two programs unique to SAAB.

In order to promote student-motivated research and student-faculty interaction, SAAB allocates a portion of the annual student fees to fund student projects through grants. Applicants may apply for one of four different types of grants:

- 📍 Student-motivated **research** performed either in the U.S. or overseas;
- Attendance at academic **conferences** either as a participant or a presenter;
- 🌐 **Visiting scholar** programs to address new ideas and contemporary issues;
- 🎨 **Fine Arts expression** in music, art, theatre, communication, or wherever one's imagination leads.

SAAB functions like a nonprofit organization within Lewis & Clark College. Students present their proposals before the Board which then reviews the applications and determines funding. Not only does SAAB allow students to conduct cutting-edge research, but it also gives students real-world experience by emulating the grant processes used by large nonprofit organizations. In two decades, SAAB has awarded over \$575,000 to over 600 projects.

Examples of SAAB Grants

- Study of gecko movement in Australia.
- Research on Irish traditional music and the origin of the banjo.
- Presentation of a paper on microcredit loans in India to the Eastern Economics Association.
- Talk by a UN representative of the Afghan government, the Taliban.
- Performance of original student compositions inspired by a trip to Ghana.

Even though Lewis & Clark has such services as writing and math skills centers, some students find they need additional help to sort through that tough calculus problem, translate a difficult foreign text, or understand just what that philosopher was saying. Thus, in 1985, SAAB created one of Lewis & Clark's most popular student programs, SAAB tutoring. Students can go to SAAB to get a peer tutor for any academic department on campus. If SAAB does not have a tutor for a specific area, they will work to find one. The tutors are all approved by their respective departments and are paid by SAAB for their services. The service is mutually beneficial: students receive additional help with their classes while tutors get paid for helping their peers.

The SAAB tutoring program is run by a student director, hired annually by the SAAB chair. These two individuals work together closely to ensure that SAAB and its programs run smoothly and that student academic concerns are being addressed.

But what does the future hold for SAAB? Like the College itself, SAAB constantly evolves to better serve the student body. In addition to expanding current services, SAAB is also trying to encompass new areas including:

- Peer academic advising for first-year and transfer students.
- Resources for students thinking about graduate work.
- Loaning equipment to students for independent projects and research.
- Increased promotion of student projects, theses, and performances.
- Increased Internet services including online grant applications.

“It’s where education happens in the best sense of the word.”

*Klaus Engelhardt
Professor of French*

“Those grants are absolutely incredible. They force you to do things differently.”

*Kimberly Gannett
SAAB Grantee, 1994*

“It’s hard to believe that students administer this board and that students fund students to do independent research projects.”

*Shelby Urutz
SAAB Chair, 1994-96*

For additional information about SAAB, please contact:
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Student Academic Affairs Board (SAAB)



Your Link to Academics

SAAB is a part of the Associated Students of Lewis & Clark (ASLC).

**Lewis & Clark College
Portland, Oregon**