



Office of Academic Programs and Educational Innovation (APEI) 2020-21 WISCONSIN TEACHING FELLOWS & SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Program Description | Call for Applications

“Scholarly teaching is what every one of us should be engaged in every day that we are in a classroom, in our office with students, tutoring, lecturing, conducting discussions, all the roles we play pedagogically... But it is only when we step back and reflect systematically on the teaching we have done, in a form that can be publicly reviewed and built upon by our peers, that we have moved from scholarly teaching to the scholarship of teaching [and learning].”

- Lee Schulman, President Emeritus
Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching

This quote by Lee Schulman reminds us that our teaching flows into multiple spaces and is rarely absent from our everyday lives. It is through the mindful act of reflecting that we can transform a knot of messy experiences into a stream of clarity, knowing, and understanding. Yet reflecting and reflection do not come easily when one is juggling the teaching of multiple classes, advising, grading assignments, squeezing in research and scholarly work, and providing service to the department, university, community, and discipline. The demands of teaching necessitate a clearing.

Recognizing this, the UW System’s Wisconsin Teaching Fellows and Scholars (WTFS) Program is designed to provide time (one year) to systematically reflect with peers in a supportive and open-minded community and, ultimately, to move from “scholarly teaching” to the “scholarship of teaching [and learning].” Administered by the UW System’s Office of Professional and Instructional Development (OPID) and directed by UW System faculty, the WTFS Program is grounded in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL).

This is a call to faculty and instructional academic staff throughout the UW System to submit applications to their Provost’s office for the 2020-21 WTFS Program.

Your institution will provide a \$4,000 summer stipend, and cover your travel, lodging, meals, and incidentals. You will also receive \$500 in Supplies & Expense from UW System’s OPID to support your SoTL work. We seek participants who demonstrate a commitment to excellence in teaching and learning, as well as an intellectual curiosity, spirit of collegiality, and commitment to the success of all students. Additionally, OPID will cover the \$65 Spring Conference registration fee.

Participants in the WTFS Program pursue teaching and learning research questions that emerge from experiences in the UW System “classroom,” whether face-to-face, blended, or online. Of particular interest are research questions that address high-impact practices such as undergraduate research, internships, community-based/service learning, intensive writing, ePortfolios, capstone courses, first-year seminars and experiences, and collaborative learning.

Who can apply to the WTFS Program?

We seek a diversity of participants from all disciplines to engage in quantitative, qualitative, interpretive, or a blended form of research. Participants may be seasoned educators (Scholars) or early in their teaching careers (Fellows). Faculty and instructional academic staff (instructors and lecturers) are welcome. Common characteristics of successful WTFS participants: intellectual curiosity; openness to new ideas, ways of thinking, and problem-solving; collegiality; commitment to a learning community; willingness to engage with an interdisciplinary group of diverse peers; and an underlying commitment to success of all students.

Your institution will ask you to complete an application which describes both a research question about student learning that interests you, and your broader experience with scholarly teaching. Although you may enter the WTFS Program with a research question in mind, we encourage you to bracket your assumptions until experiencing Faculty College and the WTFS Summer Institute. We have found that engaging in discussions with WTFS participants often generates new questions about your teaching and learning.

What is SoTL?

The Scholarship of Teaching & Learning (SoTL) engages in systematic inquiry into student learning in higher education. The UW System was an early adopter of SoTL, partnering with the Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning (CASTL) in 2000. Former UW System faculty leaders *Tony Ciccone*, *Lisa Kornetsky*, *Bill Cerbin*, and *Nancy Chick* held (or still hold) prominent positions in the international development of SoTL. Their legacy continues today with UW System's Wisconsin Teaching Fellows & Scholars Program. The WTFS Program is a year-long learning community of SoTL practitioners who represent the UW System's 11 comprehensive and two doctoral institutions. Collectively they form a vibrant interdisciplinary community with multi-faceted dynamic discussions and career-enhancing experiences for participants.

What happens in the WTFS Program?

The WTFS Program models effective teaching and learning, creating a community of learners among participants. Fellows and Scholars are guided through the process of completing a SoTL project with input from participants and the program co-directors through year-long activities at the end of which SoTL projects are made public. WTFS participants are encouraged to share their projects with one of the growing number of SoTL publications or a SoTL conference. *Note: projects should be individual and should not have additional, outside funding.* While the process of a SoTL project helps participants explore a question about learning in depth, we also spend time together discussing pedagogy, learning science, and challenges in our classroom as well as SoTL.

Requirements:

- Willingness to travel to four events throughout the year:
 - Faculty College – May 26-29, 2020 – The Osthoff Resort, Elkhart Lake
 - Summer Institute – June 8-12, 2020– Madison Concourse Hotel
 - Winter Institute – January 11-12, 2021 – Madison Concourse Hotel
 - Final meeting & Spring Conference on Teaching & Learning – April 14-16, 2021, Memorial Union, Madison
- Consultation and recording of SoTL project's progress throughout the program year.
- Submission of SoTL project abstract to UW System.

What's the difference between a Wisconsin Teaching Fellow and Scholar?

Both Fellows and Scholars engage in SoTL work. What distinguishes between the two is the professional academic experience they bring to the process. Fellows are typically starting their teaching careers and untenured. Teaching Scholars typically have 10+ years teaching experience and, if faculty, are tenured. Instructors and lecturers are also welcome to the WTFS Program. The teaching and learning process is dynamic and necessitates ongoing professional development for all educators.

Application Process

Each UW System institution has its own application deadline. For additional information, contact your Provost's Office or Director of your institution's [Center for Teaching & Learning](#). Application forms and more information, including the SoTL work of past participants, are available on the [UW System WTFS website](#). You may also want to speak to other faculty or staff who have been past participants in the WTFS Program over recent years.

For assistance, contact the WTFS Co-Directors *Heather Pelzel*, pelzelh@uww.edu, *Alison Staudinger*, staudina@uwgb.edu, or *Fay Akindes*, Director of Systemwide Professional and Instructional Development, fakindes@uwsa.edu, (608) 263-2684.

Applications are due to UW System via the [WTFS 2020-21 Application Form](#) by Thursday, December 19, 2019. but are due at your institution prior to this. Appointment letters will be sent out before February, 2020.

Note: *Components of the WTFS Program are subject to UW System's Academic Programs and Educational Innovation (APEI) budget. Dates are subject to change.*

