



Office of Professional and Instructional Development (OPID)
2024-25 WISCONSIN TEACHING FELLOWS & SCHOLARS

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.

UW System’s Wisconsin Teaching Fellows and Scholars (WTFS) Program is designed to provide the time, space, and support to systematically reflect with UW peers in a stimulating 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). The WTFS program centers this work on a commitment to ensuring that all students have the opportunity to learn, succeed, and thrive in our classrooms. This commitment has been an aspiration of OPID, WTFS, and Wisconsin educators for several years, and continues to ground our work.

This is a call to faculty and instructional academic staff throughout the UW System to submit applications to their Provost’s office for the 2024-25 WTFS Program.

Universities provide a \$4,000 summer stipend (paid before the Fall semester), and cover travel, lodging, meals, and incidentals for their WTFS participants. Each participant also receives \$500 in Supplies & Expenses from UW System’s OPID. We seek participants who demonstrate a commitment to excellence in teaching and learning, as well as intellectual curiosity, spirit of collegiality, and commitment to the success of all students.

Who can apply to the WTFS Program?

We are seeking participants to design, develop, and implement a Scholarship of Teaching & Learning (SoTL) project that explores innovative and emerging pedagogies and is grounded in a commitment that all students should succeed and thrive in our classrooms. Participants may be seasoned educators with 10+ years of teaching experience (Scholars) or earlier in their teaching careers (Fellows). Faculty and instructional academic staff (instructors and lecturers) are welcome. OPID is moving away from making distinctions between Fellows and Scholars based on tenure status.

Common characteristics of successful WTFS participants: intellectual curiosity, openness to new ideas, ways of thinking, and problem-solving, collegiality and commitment to a learning community, willingness to engage with an interdisciplinary group of diverse peers, and an underlying commitment to making adjustments to account for the imbalances in students' experiences and access to resources.

Your institution will ask you to complete an application which describes your teaching philosophy and why you are interested in engaging with the WTFS program and SoTL. Participants will conceptualize their SoTL project during Summer Institute informed by their experiences and knowledge gained from Faculty College and Summer Institute. Although you may enter the WTFS Program with a research question in mind, we encourage you to suspend your assumptions until experiencing Faculty College and the WTFS Summer Institute. We have found that engaging in discussions with WTFS participants and guest speakers 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. As scholarship, your inquiry and conclusions are made public for review and critique. The UW System was an early voice in the SoTL conversation, 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 community 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.

We welcome SoTL projects that show a commitment to facilitating success for all students, and that explore alternative grading, high-impact teaching practices, culturally responsive teaching, indigenous and embodied ways of knowing, generative artificial intelligence, and other current issues and interests in higher education.

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 designing 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 at OPID's Annual Spring Conference on Teaching & Learning in Madison. During our group meetings at Faculty College, Summer Institute, and Winter Institute, participants prepare relevant readings and materials before the meetings, engage actively in mindfulness practices, participate in supportive small group work, and progress steadily on their individual or collaborative SoTL projects. Participants are asked to make a full-time commitment during these meetings. While the process of a SoTL project helps participants explore a question about learning in depth, we also spend time together discussing a variety of pedagogical approaches currently of interest in higher education, including equity-minded teaching and learning, learning science, assessment, alternative grading, culturally responsive teaching, indigenous and embodied ways of knowing, appropriate ways to incorporate GenAI, and other opportunities for enhancing teaching and learning.

Requirements:

- Willingness to complete any necessary readings and materials, travel, commit to full-time active participation during four events throughout the year:
 - Faculty College – May 28- 31, 2024 – The Osthoff Resort, Elkhart Lake
 - Summer Institute – June 10 -14, 2024– The Pyle Center, Madison, lodging at The Graduate
 - Winter Institute – January 5-7, 2025 – The Fluno Center, Madison
 - Spring Conference on Teaching & Learning – April 17-18, 2025 – Memorial Union, Madison
- Participation in an online progress meeting in August
- Submission of an IRB proposal prior to starting SoTL project data collection, ideally by August
- Consultation and recording of SoTL project's progress throughout the program year.
- Submission of SoTL project abstract to UW System.

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](#). The SoTL works 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. Keep in mind, however, that the slight shifts in this year's WTFS program will differ from what past participants experienced. For assistance, contact the WTFS Co-Directors *Valerie Barske*, History and International Studies, UW Stevens Point, Wisconsin Teaching Scholar 2016-17 (Valerie.Barske@uwsp.edu); *Heather Pelzel*, Biology, UW Whitewater, Wisconsin Teaching Fellow 2014-15 (pelzelh@uww.edu); or *Fay Akindes*, Director of Systemwide Professional and Instructional Development, Wisconsin Teaching Fellow 2000-01 (fakindes@uwsa.edu).

Applications are due to UW System via the [WTFS 2024-25 Application Form](#) by Tuesday, December 12, 2023, but are due at your institution prior to this. Appointment letters will be sent in January 2024.

Note: Components of the WTFS Program are subject to UW System's Office of Professional & Instructional Development (OPID) budget. Dates and venues are subject to change.