

2020-21 Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Proposal

Program Description

All of us think about our classes and how to improve them. When we think systematically about that process, we increase the likelihood that we will understand what is working and what is not working in our classrooms and how to improve the learning environment. The scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) is a natural outgrowth of those systematic efforts. From the perspective of the individual faculty member, it provides an opportunity for publication. From an institutional perspective, it provides an opportunity to spread “best practices” to a wider range of faculty.

Faculty participants in the SoTL workshop will receive mentoring and can submit a proposal to receive an incentive to complete a SoTL project. The goal of this program is to provide faculty with opportunities to enhance their scholarly work in academic programs of the university and to develop innovative approaches to enhance student learning.

Individuals who submit a full proposal will receive a \$100 stipend. There is funding available to support up to six projects in the fall semester and six projects in the spring semester. Selected proposals will have the opportunity to receive a \$500 stipend upon completion of the project and presentation of results. All participants in the SoTL workshop can receive mentoring regardless of whether they submit a proposal or if their project is selected.

Who is Eligible to Apply?

Any participant in the SoTL workshop may apply for a stipend. Workshop participants may submit an individual proposal or may join with others to submit a proposal as a team. Should more than 6 quality proposals (as judged by those reviewing the proposals – see below for the criteria) be submitted for a single semester, other factors will then become relevant. Those factors will include preference to full-time tenure track (or early career full-time contract) faculty, distribution among a variety of disciplines, projects with some relevance to the University’s undergraduate general education program, and, in future years, past participants in SoTL workshops who submitted proposals that did not receive a stipend. Stipends are per proposal, not per faculty member, so a joint proposal will receive stipends for the noted amount to be divided equally among the participants. Faculty members are only eligible for this program one time. In future years, should there be a joint proposal involving a faculty member who was a past recipient of an SoTL stipend and a faculty member who was not, the stipend will only be payable to the faculty member who was not a past recipient.

What Must a Proposal Include?

- **Proposal Form** – two pages or fewer. Consists of following **required** elements:
 - Research Question - What is the student learning objective that you want to investigate? What is your question about student learning in the classroom?
 - Implementation Strategy - What aspects of the learning environment relate to your research questions?

- Evidence - What methods will you use to collect data? How will you interpret and evaluate the data?
- Timeline - When will you collect and analyze the data?
- Impact - How might the project enhance the understanding of teaching and learning in the discipline? What is the plan to disseminate results to others?

How Do I Apply?

Prepare the proposal, consisting of the proposal form. Submit one electronic copy to Art Sanders (arthur.sanders@drake.edu), Kevin Saunders (kevin.saunders@drake.edu), and Gregory Lin (gregory.lin@drake.edu) by **Monday July 27, 2020** (Fall 2020 Project) or **Monday October 26, 2020** (Spring 2021 Project).

What Are the Expectations?

Fall projects are to be completed by Friday, February 28, 2021. Spring projects are to be completed by Friday, June 30, 2021. Awardees will present their results following completion of their project, and may also be invited to present informational sessions and/or posters about their projects at university functions throughout the year. Participants are strongly encouraged to publicly share the findings of their project with colleagues and peers in their respective departments and colleges, across campus through university forums, and beyond campus through conference presentations and journal publications.

How Will Proposals Be Reviewed?

All proposals will be reviewed and ranked by a committee. Questions may be directed to Art Sanders, Associate Provost for Curriculum and Assessment, at arthur.sanders@drake.edu. Proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria.

- **Research Question:** Successful proposals will clearly identify an essential question about teaching and learning that adds to the body of scholarship.
- **Implementation Strategy:** Proposal demonstrates a clear connection between pedagogy and specific learning outcomes addressed in the research question.
- **Evidence:** Proposal provides an appropriate design and clear methods.
- **Timeline:** There is a high likelihood of being able to complete the project within the provided timeline.
- **Impact:** Scholarship resulting from the project is likely to enhance the understanding of teaching and learning in the discipline. The proposal identifies possible implications for the improvement of pedagogy and instructional delivery.

We will make every effort to review the proposals and notify those who submitted them within three weeks of the proposal deadline.

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Research Question - What is the student learning objective that you want to investigate? What is your question about student learning in the classroom?

Implementation Strategy - What aspects of the learning environment relate to your research questions? Demonstrate a clear connection between pedagogy and specific outcomes.

Evidence - What methods will you use to collect data? How will you interpret and evaluate the data?

Timeline - When will you collect and analyze the data?

Impact - How might the project enhance the understanding of teaching and learning in the discipline? What is the plan to disseminate results to others?