

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Faculty College is an annual professional development institute | retreat for faculty, instructors, and lecturers in the University of Wisconsin System. It originated in 1979 and was held at Marinette County for 20 years then moved to UW-Richland Center in 2000. The 44th Annual Faculty College will take place on May 28-31, 2024 at [The Osthoff Resort](#) in Elkhart Lake for the third year.

Who should attend Faculty College?

Faculty College 2024 is conceptualized as an institute | retreat with university teams led by teaching and learning center directors or designees. Universities are invited to nominate up to 10 team members. Team members include: two OPID Advisory Council members, two 2024-25 Wisconsin Teaching Fellows & Scholars (WTFS), and six additional faculty, instructors, or lecturers, with teaching and learning responsibilities.

Suggestions to consider for the six additional nominees (not limited to):

- WTFS 2024-25 applicants who are not selected for the program.
- Faculty and instructors who are interested in rethinking/redesigning student learning assignments.
- Faculty and instructors committed to supporting their Teaching and Learning Center in implementing professional development programming at their university.
- Faculty and instructors who were nominated for Faculty College 2023 but did not attend.

What is the focus of Faculty College 2024?

The theme for Faculty College 2024 is: **Rethinking/Redesigning Student Assignments**. Our guest facilitator is *Dr. Ashley Finley*, Vice President of Research and Senior Advisor to the President, American Association of Colleges & Universities (AAC&U). She will facilitate two morning workshops and be available for consultations throughout Faculty College.

What are suggested activities for university teams before, during, and after Faculty College?

Before – University teams should begin interpersonal team-building.

During – Come to Faculty College with an open mind. Seek new ideas and possibilities for approaching your work. Interact with colleagues from around the UW System during the morning workshops, then reconvene with your university teams in the afternoons. Meals, after-dinner programs, and an evening fire circle at the lake are opportunities for socializing and connecting with colleagues.

After – Reflect individually and collectively on Faculty College, then begin developing professional development programs for the 2024-25 academic year. OPID looks forward to your experiences Rethinking/Redesigning Student Learning Assignments.

What is planned for the 2024-25 Wisconsin Teaching Fellows & Scholars (WTFS) at Faculty College?

The new WTFS cohort will meet for the first time on Tuesday, May 28, at a lunch meeting led by WTFS Co-Directors *Valerie Barske* (UW-Stevens Point) and *Heather Pelzel* (UW-Whitewater). WTFS participants will be assigned shared lodging in double suites with two bedrooms and two bathrooms. Additional activities for WTFS 2024-25 will be planned during Faculty College. The WTFS will be joined by Center Directors and other Faculty College participants for dinner and the opening program on Tuesday, May 28, at 6 p.m. in the Osthoff Resort's Conference Center Ballroom.

Who pays for Faculty College?

UW System's OPID will continue to pay for lodging (double suites), meals, and programming for up to 10 participants at each institution. Institutions (typically the Provost's Office) are responsible for reimbursing faculty and instructors for mileage and meals & incidentals traveling to and from Faculty College. Carpooling is strongly encouraged. Parking is free. ***There is a limited number of single rooms available at a cost of \$150 for three nights. Individuals are responsible for this cost. UW System/OPID, however, will accommodate individuals with special needs.***

Is it necessary to stay at The Osthoff Resort or can participants commute from home?

Faculty College is designed to be an institute | retreat. Participants should not only stay at The Osthoff Resort, but stay for its entirety. Participants who are unable to begin and end with the group should postpone their Faculty College attendance, in part, because rooms are non-refundable.

What lodging accommodations are available?

Participants will be assigned to a double suite, each with two private bedrooms and two bathrooms. Bedding, towels, and toiletries are provided. There is also a fully equipped kitchen, sitting area, flat-screen TV, and wireless connection. Participants are encouraged to bring their own snacks and water bottle. Coffee and tea will be served during morning breaks.

May I request a suite-mate?

Yes, you may request to share a double suite with a specific person. Suite assignments will be made by university, except for WTFS 2024-25 participants who will be assigned together.

May I bring my spouse or guest?

No. Faculty College is designed to be a fully immersive retreat. It is intentionally set at a remote site to minimize distractions. We envision your afternoons and evenings to be spent in dialogue with colleagues from around the UW System. Past participants have said that meaningful exchanges often happen in-between the formal sessions. Collaborative projects, such as book publishing and conference planning, have formed in the past.



How should I dress?

Dress is casual and comfortable. Bring a sweater or shawl for air-conditioned rooms. Also pack a light jacket for evenings around the firepit and walks along the lake.

May I request special meals?

Dietary restrictions will be collected during registration. The Catering staff will try its best to provide alternative meals. Should your dietary needs be highly specialized, however, you should be prepared to supplement the catered meals with your own needs.

Should I bring spending money?

Yes. Although lodging and meals are covered, you may want to purchase snacks, beverages, or souvenirs.

What recreational activities are available?

Bicycles, kayaks, and pontoon boats are available for rent. (You may also bring your own bicycles and kayaks.) The Osthoff Resort has a spa with services available at a fee. There are two outdoor swimming pools and an exercise room that are free to Faculty College participants. There are walkable trails in the surrounding woodlands. The village of Elkhart Lake is a stroll away and offers an ice cream parlor, snack bars, and gift shops, including one that sells Nordic yarn.

May I bring a musical instrument?

Yes! In the past impromptu jam sessions were held around the fire. Guitars, ukuleles, tambourines, a saxophone, and even a plastic bag were part of the music mix. In recent years, karaoke was a popular collective activity.

For questions not listed on this FAQ, contact:

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