

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Faculty College is an annual professional development institute | retreat for faculty, instructors, and lecturers in the Universities of Wisconsin. It originated in 1979 and was held at Marinette County for 20 years then moved to UW-Richland Center in 2000-2019. The 44th Annual Faculty College will take place 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 a designee. 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.

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 for the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). She is our plenary workshop facilitator and respondent throughout Faculty College.

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

Before – University teams should begin interpersonal team building and consider how and why student assignments need to be redesigned.

During – Come to Faculty College with an open mind. Seek new ideas and possibilities for approaching your work. Interact with colleagues from other Universities of Wisconsin, and engage in conversations with your university teams in the afternoons. Meals and an evening fire circle at the lake are opportunities for socializing and connecting with colleagues. On the last day of Faculty College, there will be team-time to reflect and share ideas from Faculty College to implement at your home universities.

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 and stories about *Rethinking & Redesigning Student 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, 3 pm to 5 pm, at a meeting led by WTFS Co-Directors *Valerie Barske* (UW-Stevens Point) and *Heather Pelzel* (UW-Whitewater). WTFS participants will be assigned shared lodging. Activities tbd.

When does Faculty College begin and end for participants not in the WTFS?

Hotel registration begins at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, May 28. Faculty College registration is located outside of the Conference Center Ballroom and begins at 4 p.m. Dinner is scheduled at 6 p.m. Faculty College ends on Friday, May 31, by noon. Snacks-to-go will be distributed.

Who pays for Faculty College?

UW system's OPID covers lodging, 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 at The Osthoff Resort is free.

A limited number of single rooms (with refrigerators) are available at a fee of \$150 for three nights.

Individuals with special accommodation needs will be assigned a single room at no cost.

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, tea, and light snacks will be served during morning breaks.

What meals will be provided?

All meals will be held in the ballroom, except for Wednesday's dinner and Thursday's lunch (organized by your university team leader). Continental breakfast supplemented by a few dishes will be served each morning.

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 dietary needs.

May I request a suite-mate?

Yes, you may request to share a double suite with a specific person. If no requests are made, we will assign you to a suite with someone from another university to facilitate inter-university relationships. WTFS 2024-25 participants will be assigned to a suite with another WTFS participant.

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 the entirety of Faculty College. Participants who are unable to begin and end with the group should postpone their Faculty College attendance.

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. Book projects have formed in the past.

How should I dress?

Dress is business casual and comfortable. Bring a sweater or shawl for air-conditioned rooms. Afternoons are casual with the possibility of swimming, running, walking, and other activities. We suggest packing a light jacket for evenings around the firepit and walks along the lake.

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.

For questions not listed on this FAQ, contact:

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