

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

**OPID's 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 for another 20 years. The 45th Annual Faculty College will take place at [The Osthoff Resort](#) in Elkhart Lake for the fourth year. (Faculty College was cancelled in 2020 and held on-line in 2021.)

### Who should attend Faculty College 2025?

Faculty College 2025 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 educators -- faculty, instructors, or lecturers, with teaching and learning responsibilities. (Universities not participating in WTFS may nominate up to eight team members.)

### What is the focus of Faculty College 2025?

2025 signals the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of SoTL in Wisconsin. SoTL was introduced as a systemwide effort at Faculty College 2000 in Richland Center and continues to serve as a framework for the WTFS. Our theme for Faculty College 2025 is fittingly : ***(Re)Engaging with SoTL***.

### Who are our guest facilitators at Faculty College 2025?

Our guest facilitators are **Dr. Nancy Chick** (Rollins College) and **Dr. Peter Felten** (Elon University), both with roots in Wisconsin and long-running engagement with the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning (ISSoTL).

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

**Before** – University teams should meet each other online and/or in person to begin community building.

**During** – Come to Faculty College with an open mind. Seek new ideas and possibilities for approaching teaching and learning. Interact with colleagues from other Universities of Wisconsin, and engage in conversations with your university teams. 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 conceptualize professional development programs for the 2025-26 academic year.

**What is planned for the 2025-26 Wisconsin Teaching Fellows & Scholars (WTFS) at Faculty College?**

The 2025-26 cohort will launch its year-long WTFS program on Tuesday, May 27, with an afternoon gathering led by Co-directors **Valerie Barske** (UW-Stevens Point) and **Heather Pelzel** (UW-Whitewater). Plenary workshops co-facilitated by Nancy Chick and Peter Felten will provide the grounding in SoTL for the year-long WTFS and SoTL projects.

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

Hotel registration begins at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, May 27. 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 30, by noon.

**Who pays for Faculty College?**

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 at the Osthoff Resort is free. There is a limited number of single rooms available at a cost. Individuals are responsible for this cost. 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.

**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. If no requests are made, we will assign you to a suite with someone from another university to facilitate inter-university relationships. WTFS 2025-26 participants will be assigned to a suite with another WTFS participant.

**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 the Universities of Wisconsin. 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, bicycling, writing, reading, and other activities. We suggest packing 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 dietary 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.

**For questions not listed on this FAQ, contact:**

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