

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

**OPID's Faculty College** is an annual professional development experience for faculty, instructors, and lecturers in the Universities of Wisconsin. It originated in 1979 and was held at UW-Marquette County for 20 years then moved to UW-Richland Center in 2000 for another 20 years. Faculty College 2026 will take place at [The Osthoff Resort](#) in Elkhart Lake on May 26-29, 2026. This our fifth year at this location. (Faculty College was cancelled in 2020 and held on-line in 2021.)

### What is the focus of Faculty College 2026?

Our theme for Faculty College 2026 is **Co-creating Healthy Learning Ecosystems**. We will be guided by internationally known scholars **Dr. Bryan Dewsbury** (Florida International University) and **Dr. Mays Imad** (Connecticut College), both with STEM degrees who apply innovative pedagogies to interdisciplinary spaces. Dr. Dewsbury is a biologist and Dr. Imad is a neuroscientist. You may remember Dr. Dewsbury as the opening plenary speaker at OPID's 2024 Spring Conference on Teaching & Learning.

### What are suggested activities for university teams before and during 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 cohort. 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 in your teaching and learning for the 2026-27 academic year.

### What is planned for the 2026-27 Wisconsin Teaching Fellows & Scholars (WTFS) at Faculty College?

The 2026-27 cohort will launch its year-long WTFS program on Tuesday, May 26, with an afternoon gathering led by our new Co-directors **Sarah Riforgiate** (UW-Milwaukee) and **Georjeanna Wilson-Doenges** (UW-Green Bay). Co-directors will announce additional times to meet during Faculty College.

### When does Faculty College begin and end?

Hotel registration begins at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, May 26. 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 29, by noon. Faculty College ends with a Swag Swap.

### What is the Swag Swap?

By swag we mean **non**-university swag. To participate, bring something you love from the place you call home. Consider supporting a local artist, farm-to-table small business, or other Wisconsin entrepreneur. "Home" might also be outside of Wisconsin. Your swag should be \$20ish in value. On Friday morning before breakfast, drop off your swag with **Diane Waters**, in exchange for a ticket, in the lounge adjacent to the ballroom. At the end of Faculty College your ticket will give you entry to the *Swag Swap Lounge*. Leaving Faculty College with a surprise swag ends our time together on a sunny note!

### **Who pays for Faculty College?**

OPID (UWSA's Office of Professional & Instructional Development) covers lodging (double suites), meals, and programming for up to 10 participants at each institution. Institutions 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.

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

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 requests are not mutual, 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 request a private single room?**

Yes, there are a limited number of single rooms with an attached bathroom and refrigerator. Participants seeking a single room are responsible for paying a fee. This year's fee has yet to be determined.

### **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 also pickleball courts and 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.

### **Polar Plunge, anyone?**

Faculty College 2025 featured a Friday morning plunge in Elkhart Lake. Will there be an encore this year? Pack your swimsuit just in case!

### **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 regarding OPID or WTFS, contact:**

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[Centers for Teaching & Learning Directors](#)

### **For questions regarding registration, lodging, and meals, contact:**

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