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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-Marinette County for 20 years then moved to UW-Richland Center in 2000 for another 20 years. Faculty College 2027 will take place at The Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake on June 1-4, 2027. This our sixth year at this location. (Faculty College was cancelled in 2020 and held on-line in 2021.) Despite its name, Faculty College is open to all instructional staff in addition to faculty.

What is the focus of Faculty College 2026?

Our theme for Faculty College 2027 is ***The Power of Teaching***. We will be guided by scholar **Dr. David Gooblar** (University of Iowa), author of *One Classroom at a Time: How Better Teaching Can Make College More Equitable* (2025) and *The Missing Course: Everything They Never Taught You About College Teaching* (2019), both published by Harvard University Press.

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. There will be team-time to reflect and share ideas from Faculty College to implement in your teaching and learning for the 2027-28 academic year.

What is planned for the 2027-28 *Wisconsin Teaching Fellows & Scholars (WTFS)* at Faculty College?

The 2027-28 cohort will launch its year-long WTFS program on Tuesday, June 1, with an afternoon gathering led by our faculty co-directors **Sarah Riforgiate** (UW-Milwaukee) and **Georjeanna Wilson-Doenges** (UW-Green Bay). WTFS participants sit together during meals, workshops, and afternoon discussions. 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, June 1. 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, June 4, 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 located outside of Wisconsin. Your swag should be around $20 in value. Drop off your swag on Friday morning in exchange for a ticket which will give you entry to the *Swag Swap Lounge* at the end of Faculty College. Leaving Faculty College with a surprise gift ends our time together on a positive 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. A few of the suites are designed as partial lofts. 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. *Note: Although OPID covers lodging, you will be asked for a credit card at check-in to cover incidentals*.

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 your university. 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 a private bathroom and refrigerator. Participants seeking a single room are responsible for paying a fee. We expect this year's fee to be similar to last year's rate of $225 for three nights.

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.

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 2026 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 not listed here, contact:

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Centers for Teaching & Learning Directors

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