

Summer Sandbox Grants Guidelines and Application – 2025

At its best, E Term functions as a sandbox where faculty have the space and resources to develop new skills and experiment with new ideas. Undergraduate Studies (UGS) has set aside \$75,000 for individuals or groups of faculty to try new techniques and explore new pedagogy working in the summer.

There are a few initiatives we are most interested in supporting:

Artificial Intelligence

- Develop courses within a major that teach AI tools relevant to the discipline.
- Develop teaching methodologies for courses to address the challenges of AI.
- Develop AI tools that support teaching.

Departmental Student Success Initiatives

- Build activities or courses to connect first-year students to the departmental culture.
- Build courses that support sophomore student success and development.

Novel approaches to effective online teaching

- Develop engaging and effective online courses within the constraints of E Term

Convince us!

- Your great ideas, which we have not thought about, might be just the right thing!

Summer Sandbox Grants can support experimentation in an individual course, or they could be used to bring together groups of faculty over the summer to develop new strategies or approaches to teaching and learning. We expect that much of the work will be completed in the summer and that courses will be deployed within the next academic year.

Application Process for Summer Sandbox Grants

Summer Sandbox Grant Application

1. **Cover Page and Budget with Justification** (see templates attached to this document)
2. **Project Description:** This narrative should be two to three pages. The narrative should discuss:

Need for the project: Describe the course to be taught or projects to be advised, including a discussion of how the course meets a need during the academic year;

Approach: Describe what new approaches to teaching and advising you will be learning or developing;

Outcomes: Describe how you will measure the impact of the work and, how you will share the results within and outside WPI;

Project timeline

Review Process

UGS will recruit a faculty committee from previous Summer Sandbox awardees to review proposals and advise on award decisions.

Cover Page

Summer Sandbox Grants 2025

Department Initiatives and Expanded Impact Initiatives

Submit to Undergraduate Studies (undergradstudies@wpi.edu) by February 3, 2025.

Name	Job Title	Department(s)
PI:		

Title of Proposal:

Brief Proposal Description (maximum of 80 words, for publicity purposes). Please include the goal and potential impact.

Course(s) or Projects Affected:

Approximate Number of Students Affected Annually:

Total BUDGET REQUEST: \$

Start Date:

End Date:

CERTIFICATION

I agree to abide by the grant conditions in the program guidelines if an award is made.

Signature(s) of Applicant(s): (typed signature is acceptable)	Date

DEPARTMENT HEAD / PROGRAM DIRECTOR ENDORSEMENT is required. Please ask them to send it as an email message to undergradstudies@wpi.edu by February 8, 2025.

Budget Details and Justification

Student support (specify hourly wage, estimated hours, time period, and activities). Consider \$15/hr for undergraduates and \$15-20/hr for graduate students, depending on required skill set and time of year. **\$**
Explanation and justification:

Faculty compensation (specify individuals, time period, and activities) **\$**
Explanation and justification:

Travel and/or professional development activities **\$**
Explanation and justification:

Supplies, software, equipment (itemize and explain why department capital or IT budgets are not an appropriate source of funding) **\$**
Explanation and justification:

Assessment/evaluation support	\$
--------------------------------------	-----------

Explanation and justification:

Other costs (itemize)	\$
------------------------------	-----------

Explanation and justification:

TOTAL = \$

Project Description

This narrative should be two to three single-spaced pages with 11 point or larger font. Use of the following headings is required.

Need for the project

Goals and objectives

Approach

Deliverables and Impact

Project timeline

