



Teaching Innovation Grants - 2022 Overview of Opportunities and Call for Proposals

This internal grants program aims to support and strengthen WPI's history of educational innovation. Three types of grants from two different sources will be awarded in this funding cycle. Please see the infographic later in this document for guidance on selecting the appropriate type of grant for a particular project.

The Morgan Teaching and Learning Center, the Educational Development Council (EDC), and the Academic Technology Center (ATC) will award up to \$75,000 in teaching innovation grants. The goal is to enrich learning experiences for students and foster a climate of teaching innovation by supporting WPI educators to seed new initiatives in undergraduate and graduate education that meet identifiable needs at WPI. Proposals in any area are welcome. Timely topics include but are not limited to: issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the curriculum and teaching practices; fostering mental health and holistic well-being in academic contexts; use of XR (extended reality) to address teaching and learning challenges in innovative ways; online experiential and project-based learning; interdisciplinary education initiatives; and innovative graduate education. Two types of grants are available from this funding source: **Professional Learning Communities** and **Independent Projects**. The attached infographic explains the distinction between them. Guidelines for each grant type can be found on [this webpage](#); they provide details about eligibility, budget guidance, application forms, and review criteria. *Proposals, whether for a PLC or IP grant, will merit funding only if they go beyond normal expectations for renewal and improvement of curricula and pedagogical strategies.* The proposal deadline is February 1, 2022, and awards will be announced in D-term. All questions about these grants should be directed to morgan-center@wpi.edu.

Undergraduate Studies is dedicating up to \$75,000 for **Summer Sandbox Grants** to support faculty who will design and test new approaches to teaching and advising in an undergraduate summer course or project. This is an opportunity to use summer as a learning laboratory for the academic year. Faculty who wish to offer a summer course or project to test their ideas are encouraged to use this grant mechanism. Support is available for faculty who want to experiment with novel approaches to teaching and learning, groups of faculty in a department or program who are developing new approaches for core and large-enrollment courses, and for any faculty exploring fundamentally new approaches to teaching and learning. The document describing details

about eligibility and proposal guidelines can be found on [this webpage](#). The proposal deadline is February 1, 2022. All questions about these grants should be directed to Debra Boucher (dlboucher@wpi.edu), Director of Special Academic Programs in Undergraduate Studies.

Eligibility and Limitations: The separate document for each type of grant describes eligibility. There are no restrictions or limits on the number of proposals that an individual may submit or be part of, within a particular year or across years, as long as the submissions are for distinct projects. (Applicants should not submit the same project to more than one grant type in the same year.) First and foremost, proposals are judged on their merits. When there are more worthy proposals than we can fund, we weigh multiple values: the desire to support many different faculty, recognition that a series of grants across years often fosters considerable professional growth for an individual faculty member, and the collective good that's generated from projects aligned with strategic directions.

Which type of grant is the best fit for your idea?

