

## Summer Sandbox Grants Guidelines and Application – 2023

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 faculty development in the summer budget. Our hope is to use these funds to support faculty initiatives which align with the current strategic plan and have maximum impact to teaching and learning at WPI. There are a few approaches we are interested in supporting:

**Individual courses:** Faculty redesigning an undergraduate course (or courses) for online, or hybrid modes can receive a development stipend of \$3,000. As in previous summers, UGS would also ensure faculty that these new courses would be paid at the full course rate (even if enrollment is low). The goal is to support innovation and experimentation, and to prioritize courses that will also be taught again in the academic year.

**Department initiatives:** In the past, UGS has worked with academic departments to develop projects focused on undergraduate large-enrollment and core courses regularly delivered by many faculty. We seek to support strategic initiatives that will have a broad impact on a sequence of courses. For example, we would support the development of high-quality videos for online or blended courses. This project has involved multiple faculty members, support from the ATC, and a creative compensation model. We would like to offer the opportunity for these kinds of projects moving forward.

**Expanded impact initiatives:** Many faculty have experimented with new technologies and new approaches during the recent crisis, and we seek to support faculty who wish to continue to develop these approaches and also help other faculty use and adapt these methods. We also seek to support faculty groups who are interested in researching the impact of emergency remote learning, online teaching, and tech flex during the pandemic. The goal would be to learn from this season of innovation, to continue to develop the innovations already started, and consider how it will impact the future of learning at WPI.

**Other options:** We have identified areas of potential innovation and exploration but leave open the likelihood that individual faculty or teams of faculty are best able to articulate opportunities for fruitful collaborations, problem solving, and innovation we have not imagined. If you have such an idea, please reach to Debra Boucher [dlboucher@wpi.edu](mailto:dlboucher@wpi.edu), Director of Special Academic Programs in Undergraduate Studies, for a conversation about how we might work together to reach your goals.

**Eligibility:** Faculty teaching and/or advising in the summer are eligible for Summer Sandbox Grants.

## Application Process for Summer Sandbox Grants

### Individual course grants

1. Send an email to [UGSummer@wpi.edu](mailto:UGSummer@wpi.edu) describing the course, including the term (E1 or E2) that you wish to teach. Departmental decisions regarding course assignments will be respected, so be sure to confer with your department head or program director before submitting your plan.
2. Please include a short paragraph describing what you hope to gain and how this experience will impact teaching in the summer and beyond.

### Department-centered projects & expanded impact initiatives

1. **Cover Page and Budget with Justification** (see templates attached to this document)
2. **Project Description-** This narrative should not exceed two 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/project meets a need during the academic year.

**Approach-** Describe what new approaches to teaching and advising you will be learning or developing.

**Impact-** Describe how you will measure the impact of the work, how you expect this work to impact the teaching and learning at WPI, and how you will share the results within and outside WPI.

**Project timeline**

### Submission review process

A faculty committee will review proposals and advise on award decisions.

## Cover Page

**Summer Sandbox Grants 2023****Department Initiatives and Expanded Impact Initiatives**

Submit to Undergraduate Studies ([UGSummer@wpi.edu](mailto:UGSummer@wpi.edu)) by February 1, 2023.

Names and Titles of Applicants (designate one PI):	Department(s):

**Title of Proposal:**

**Brief Proposal Description (maximum of 80 words, for publicity purposes):**

**Course(s) or Projects Affected:**

**Approximate Number of Students Affected Annually:**

**Total Funds Requested: \$**

**Start Date:**

**ENDORSEMENT** (this can be sent as an email message to [UGSummer@wpi.edu](mailto:UGSummer@wpi.edu))

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Signature of Department or Program Head of PI

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Date

### Budget Details and Justification

Spending Category	Justification	Total
<b>Student support</b> (specify hourly wage, estimated hours, time period, and activities)		
<b>Faculty compensation</b> (specify individuals, time period, and activities)		
<b>Supplies, software, equipment</b> (itemize and explain why department capital or IT budgets are not an appropriate source of funding)		
<b>Assessment/evaluation support</b>		
<b>Other costs</b>		

**To complete your proposal submission, attach a Project Description.** This narrative should not exceed two pages and should discuss:

**Need for the project-** Describe the course to be taught or projects to be advised, including a discussion of how the course/project meets a need during the academic year.

**Approach-** Describe what new approaches to teaching and advising you will be learning or developing.

**Impact-** Describe how you will measure the impact of the work, how you expect this work to impact the teaching and learning at WPI, and how you will share the results within and outside WPI.

**Project timeline**