CATL SCHOLARSHIP OF TEACHING & LEARNING GRANTS

Funding source: CATL

INTRODUCTION

Center for Advancing Teaching and Learning (CATL) grants support instructors undertaking projects intended to improve teaching and student learning. These grants support effective teaching that is organized, evidence-based, technology-supported, inclusive, feedback-enriched, and/or programmatic in nature.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) is classroom research in which instructors investigate teaching and learning in their own classes. SoTL grants fund projects that examine a significant learning issue or problem in one's field, subject area, or course, e.g., why students have difficulty learning certain concepts or skills, difficulty applying knowledge and skills to new circumstances, achievement gaps among groups of students, etc. Read more about CATL SoTL Grants.

AWARD INFORMATION

SoTL grants support instructors to design and carry out a SoTL project in the summer, fall, and spring of the funding year, which begins July 1. An individual applicant is eligible to receive a $2500 stipend for a project involving one investigator. Instructors may also apply as 2-3 member teams for a maximum award of $3600 to be divided among team members (must specify how total will be divided).

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Applicants must be faculty and instructional academic staff with at least a 50% FTE during the cycle of application.

Faculty/staff from fully self-supporting programs are not eligible to receive funds from UWL-sponsored grant programs. Faculty/staff from self-supporting programs are encouraged to contact their department chair/unit director to request funds in support of their research, scholarly, pedagogical, and professional development endeavors.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Review background information about SoTL available on the CATL SoTL Grants page.
2. Complete the CITI Online Training Course for Social & Behavioral Research Investigators. Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval is *not* required before submitting the grant proposal, but applicants must have completed the online training course before applying for the grant.
3. If a proposal includes services, support, or effort from other campus unit(s)/department(s), applicants should discuss logistics (e.g., budget requests, availability to perform proposed work) and obtain approvals from that unit/department before an application is submitted. Examples include but are not limited to proposed efforts by Graduate & Extended Learning, Murphy Library, Reservations, Statistical Consulting Center, or University Communications.
4. Complete an application narrative (see below) as a single PDF file.
5. Enroll in the following Canvas course to submit your application: https://uwlac.instructure.com/enroll/A8FD3K

APPLICATION NARRATIVE

Label the sections of your narrative with the headings below.

1. **Contact information**. For each applicant, include name, email, and department affiliation. (For collaborative SoTL projects, indicate how the total grant award will be divided among team members.)
2. **Training course**. Please indicate whether the CITI Online Training Course for Social & Behavioral Research Investigators has been completed by each applicant.

3. **Learning issue or problem.** SoTL focuses on investigating a significant learning issue or problem in one's field, subject area, or course such as why students have difficulty learning certain concepts or skills, struggle to transfer knowledge and skills to new circumstances, or experience achievement gaps that interfere with learning. Describe the learning issue or problem that is of interest to you and explain why you want to investigate it.
4. **Learning context.** Describe the context for the study, including course title, class level, number of students, etc.
5. **Rationale.** What is the significance or value of this study for instructors in your field? Briefly summarize previous research on the topic as well as the potential for impact.
6. **Research plan**. Describe a provisional research plan for your study, e.g., what evidence would you gather and how you would gather it. Include a working timeline.
7. **Previous experience**. Describe any previous SoTL training or experience. (Previous SoTL training and experience is *not* required of applicants.)

DUE DATES AND SUBMISSION

Grant narratives are due as a single PDF file by noon the Monday of finals week during Spring semester. Academic Year 25/26 grant applications are due by noon on Monday, May 12, 2025. To submit your application, enroll in the following Canvas course: https://uwlac.instructure.com/enroll/A8FD3K

REVIEW PROCESS

Applications will be reviewed by a committee composed of the CATL Teaching & Learning Specialist, the CATL Director, and the CATL Inclusive Teaching Specialist.

The following criteria will be used during the review process:

1. Has the CITI Online Training Course been completed?
2. Is the learning issue/problem explained in sufficient detail?
3. Is learning context described?
4. Has the significance or value of the study been demonstrated?
5. Is a provisional research plan outlined?
6. Is the application narrative clear and complete?

Preference will be given to applicants who have not been previously awarded a CATL SoTL grant and to projects that have the greatest potential for impact.

The Office of Research and Sponsored Programs will notify applicants of their funding status.

EXPECATIONS AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Funded grant projects will be showcased in CATL resources and events.

Grant recipients are expected to

1. Arrange a meeting with the CATL Teaching & Learning Specialist or attend a SoTL orientation workshop before beginning grant work.
2. Engage in SoTL research activities during the summer, fall, and spring of the funding year.
3. Share the results of their study at the UWL Annual Conference on Teaching and Learning.
4. Submit by June 1st a final SoTL report to grants@uwlax.edu using the following guidelines: https://www.uwlax.edu/grants/grants-final-report-form/.

• **Name(s)**
• **Email**

- **Department**
- **Primary college or division**
- **Project title**
- **Abstract** (150-200 words). The abstracts for CATL Teaching and Learning Grants will be published to provide the campus community with summaries of SoTL projects. Include your research topic, research questions, participants, methods, results, data analysis, and conclusions. You may also include possible implications of your research and future work you see connected with your findings.
- **Objectives**. Summarize the purpose and objectives of the project.
- **Method**. Describe your methods of investigation.
- **Results**. Describe the results of your study.
- **Dissemination**. Grant recipients are expected to share the results of your work at the UWL Annual Conference on Teaching and Learning. Indicate any other venues where you intend to present and/or publish your project. If relevant, include a copy of, links to, or citations of any papers, posters, presentations, or publications that resulted from your grant work.

CONTACT

Questions, if any, can be directed to the CATL Teaching & Learning Specialist, Bryan Kopp: 785-6936, bkopp@uwlax.edu.