

University of Wisconsin-Parkside Teaching and Learning Center Strategic Plan

MISSION

The Teaching and Learning Center is a resource for the ongoing improvement of and innovation in teaching and learning by providing individual and group opportunities for instructional development and by fostering best practices in teaching and learning campus-wide. The TLC seeks to fulfill its mission by:

- Creating and promoting professional development opportunities for faculty and instructional staff
- Promoting research and grant opportunities in the scholarship of teaching and learning and other initiatives related to pedagogy
- Providing support for the improvement of assessment practices
- Fostering a campus culture dedicated to teaching excellence

VISION

The Teaching and Learning Center through collaborations with campus, state, and national initiatives will provide leadership in the pursuit of effective teaching that encompasses innovations in curriculum and instruction to enhance student learning. These efforts will be informed with theories, research on pedagogy in the disciplines and best practices, campus-wide academic assessment initiatives and through the fostering of scholarly activity.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL 1: Creating and promoting professional development opportunities for faculty and instructional staff

Objective 1: Develop a regular offering of brown bag sessions, workshops, and mini-conferences that are responsive to teaching and student learning needs

Strategies:

- Work collaboratively primarily with the Committee on Teaching and Learning, Academic Assessment Achievement Committee and the General Education Committee, to become the dissemination point for professional development by sharing best practices for teaching our unique student body
- Promote student success and retention through supporting institutional initiatives
- Provide instructional and ongoing support for institutional initiatives such as the Online Faculty Developers workshop (Strategic Direction C.1.coffeec)

Assessments:

- Annually survey faculty and academic staff on the impact of professional development offerings of the TLC
- Review available student data for evidence of learning gains
- Survey workshop participants about the value of the experience and use the feedback for future design improvements

Objective 2: Prepare and support faculty and academic staff to address new and innovative practices for teaching improvement and student learning (i.e., technology in the classroom, student preparedness, universal design and inclusive excellence)

Strategies:

- Identify teaching and learning innovations and challenges in consultation with the CoTL, CTS, and by surveying faculty and academic staff
- Develop priorities for addressing teaching and learning innovations and challenges in consultation with the CoTL and CTS
- Support a broader implementation of High Impact Practices (HIPs) in the campus community (Strategic Direction C.1.a.4)
- Provide individual consulting for pedagogical and instructional design in support of curriculum development by all instructional staff

Assessments:

- Sponsoring of at least one professional development event or activity each year that is specifically responsive to a new teaching and learning innovation or challenge
- Survey department chairs to assess which of the HIPs applied to their discipline and how they were implemented
- Survey instructors about the value of the experience and the outcome of any changes implemented due to the consultation

Objective 3: Support new faculty orientation and professional development

Strategies:

- Work collaboratively with the Provost's Office to develop a year-long orientation program for new faculty and teaching academic staff
- Sponsoring reading or discussion groups for faculty mentoring
- Provide in-class observations through individual consultations or a peer visitor program

Assessments:

- Survey participants about the value of the experience and use the feedback to modify and improve the programs
- Survey observed faculty about the value of the experience and briefing/de-briefing discussions

Objective 4: Maintain TLC website as a clearing house for professional development opportunities

Strategy:

- Regularly post institutional, state and national event information

Assessment:

- Assess whether the website is meeting the needs of the campus community

GOAL 2: Promoting research and grant opportunities in the scholarship of teaching and learning and other initiatives related to pedagogy

Objective 1: Sponsoring activities on campus that feature scholarship of teaching and learning or other types of research related to teaching and student learning

Strategies:

- Arrange for and promote annual presentations by the campus' Wisconsin Teaching Fellow and Scholar
- Arrange for and promote presentations of SoTL research conducted by campus members especially those that could be integrated across campus to facilitate teaching and learning, such as formative assessment
- Provide or set-up mentoring relationships for faculty/academic staff who are at the beginning stages of conducting SoTL research

Assessments:

- Assess participant's interest in engaging with the presented topic
- Survey participants regarding the value of these relationships

Objective 2: Provide assistance to faculty and academic staff applying for grants offered through the UW-System

Strategies:

- Promote, support and communicate UWSA grant opportunities to the campus community in collaboration with the Grants Office (Strategic Direction F.3.b)
- Review of grant applications is vetted through the CoTL which will provide feedback to strengthen applications
- Sponsor events that feature faculty and staff who have participated in such initiatives
- Provide information or web links to such opportunities on the TLC website

Assessments:

- Utilize customization of grant calls and disseminate through the T&LC website, e-mails, and UW-P news sources
- Number and amount of grants received (a minimum goal should be at least one successful grant application per academic year)
- Survey participants as to the degree to which these sessions facilitated meeting their grant writing goals
- Annually survey faculty and academic staff in the effectiveness of the current methods of communication

GOAL 3: Providing support for the improvement of assessment practices

Objective 1: Support effective assessment practices

Strategies:

- Strengthen the Gen Ed Program and the majors by sharing best practices and addressing weaknesses related to assessment (Strategic Direction C.3.a)
- Provide feedback to faculty who submitted courses for review to the Gen Ed committee that require additional revising
- Provide a formative evaluation service for the campus

Assessments:

- Work with the AAAC and Gen Ed Committee to identify weaknesses to be addressed
- To what extent did the faculty incorporate changes to the course and what was the result of further Gen Ed review
- Survey those who use the service as to how it impacted classroom practice and student engagement/learning

GOAL 4: Fostering a campus culture dedicated to teaching excellence

Objective 1: Facilitate a campus community dedicated to the collegial discussion of best practices in teaching for the improvement of student learning

Strategies:

- Create an 'experts' database of UWP faculty and academic staff who could serve as consultants for others who wish to develop their teaching more in specific areas (i.e., group projects, supervising interns, incorporating information technology into the classroom, etc.)
- Dissemination of T&LC newsletter
- Sponsoring reading or discussion groups for all faculty and teaching academic staff around a specific teaching-related topic

Assessments:

- Assess participant's interest in engaging with the database and experts
- Survey readership as to the value of the articles
- Survey participants regarding the value of the experience

Objective 2: Facilitate inter-campus collaborations through collaboration with the following key stakeholders

- The Provost's Office
- Director of General Education and the General Education Committee
- Academic Achievement Assessment Committee
- Director of Research Administration and the Grants Office
- Director of Learning Assistance
- Director of Community Based Learning
- Academic Director, First-Year Programs (Strategic Direction A.2d)
- Director of Student Success in support of forums regarding college readiness and academic success (Strategic Direction A.1.g)
- Director of Assessment and Academic Planning
- Director of Institutional Research & Assessment Services
- Ethnic Studies Committee (Strategic Direction D.5.c)
- Director of Disability Services
- Campus Technology Services and the Learning Technology Center