

UWW LEARN CENTER First Year Program Session Schedule

Session #1 Welcome to Whitewater Wednesday, 23 August, 2023 UC Ballroom 8:30-3:30

This inaugural meeting is co-sponsored by the UWW HR department and the LEARN Center. The goal of this session is to welcome you to UWW, provide you with essential resources and information that you will need to be successful, and connect you with relevant campus offices and staff to help you support your students. Yes, there will be paperwork and policy, but there will also be engaging discussion, fun “welcome” sessions, and lots of UWW swag.

Session #2 The Student Experience Monday, 28 August 2023 UC 259A 8:30-3:30

In this meeting, the focus will be on the UWW student experience. From classroom technology use, to dorm life, to the “typical” student UWW attracts, we will seek to understand our student’s more fully and explore ways to engage, inspire, and transform them in ways that will best help them accomplish their academic, personal, and professional goals. In addition, this first session will also provide structured opportunities for you as new faculty to begin building a network of support and community to enrich your UWW experience.

As part of this day, there will be an extended session on the classroom technology that students and faculty use here at UWW. Few tools serve the contemporary student as much as technology. It’s a pervasive part of virtually all instructional and non-instructional activities. This session will familiarize faculty with on-line services to assist in managing courses and the host of other professional responsibilities. You’re encouraged to bring a laptop if you have one, although it’s not a requirement.

Through a series of hands-on and interactive exercises, attendees will meet and work with staff of Instructional, Communication and Information Technology (ICIT) & the Learning Technology Center (LTC). By the end of this session, participants will:

1. learn about the campus email and calendar system, messaging and collaboration tools, and web conferencing;
2. better understand the basic tools for class and student management;
3. gain experience using some of the technology in classrooms on campus; and
4. become familiar with the different resources to assist you with course software and supplemental course materials.

Session #3
The Purple Book
September 22, 2023
Noon - 2pm
Hyland Hall 1300

Provost Chenoweth will provide an overview of the Purple Book process—introducing first year faculty to UW-Whitewater’s vehicle for chronicling professional accomplishments relevant to reappointment, promotion and tenure.

By the end of the session, first year faculty will have a sense of the purposes and timelines relevant to the Purple Book and a better understanding of the resources available from Administrative Affairs, and have:

1. an understanding of the faculty Personnel Rules that guide reappointment, tenure, and promotion;
2. a sense of how to best document teaching/job performance, research/creative activities, and professional and public service efforts; and
3. questions to ask his/her chair relevant to individual departmental use of the Purple Book.

Session #4
Challenging Teaching Situations
Friday, 6 October 2023
Noon-2:00pm
Hyland Hall 1300

Andy Browning, Assistant Dean of Students, will present data on UW-Whitewater students, especially with regard to their mental health and other self-care needs. They will also examine ways to identify and respond to challenging students and classroom situations. Multiple scenarios will be discussed including student rights regarding freedom of speech.

By the end of the session, first year faculty will better understand:

1. resources on campus available to assist students with mental health and other challenges;
2. strategies to handle challenging students and classroom situations;
3. the complex set of challenges many of our students face on a daily basis and how their learning is impacted.
4. policies regarding student freedom of speech in the classroom setting

Session #5
Scholarship and Creative Activity
Friday, 10 November 2023
Noon-2:00pm
Hyland Hall 1300

Tenure-track faculty consistently report that the pressure to meet scholarly/creative expectations is the most significant “stress-producing” professional challenge they face.

We will discuss actionable steps one can take to be a productive scholar despite competing demands for a faculty’s time. I will introduce resources on campus that can support faculty’s scholarly and creative work as well as strategies on how to leverage such existing institutional resources to secure more substantial and external support. At the end of the session, participants will:

1. better understand campus resources that are useful in supporting scholarly and creative work;
2. craft strategies for supporting and increasing scholarly/creative output;
3. discuss how best to meet scholarly/creative expectations in the UW-W environment; and
4. draft a scholarly/creative work agenda.

Dates and topics for the Spring, 2024 sessions are listed below. Dates are determined, and session topics are determined, but schedules are still being finalized as to what session will take place on what date. Additionally, one meeting in the spring will take place at the UWW Rock Campus. Meeting locations are yet to be finalized.

Dates:

**Session #6
Friday, 9 February 2024
Noon-2:00pm
Location: TBA**

**Session #7
Friday, 8 March 2024
Noon-2:00pm
Location: TBA**

**Session #8
Friday, 12 April 2024
Noon-2:00pm
Location: TBA**

Topics:

Grading and Assessment

Faculty surveys indicate that evaluating student work and assigning grades is the “most time consuming,” and “least satisfying” part of their job.

Katy Casey, Director of Academic Assessment, will begin by looking at the biggest challenges of grading and evaluation, and progress to a discussion of strategies designed to make grading more fair, efficient, and conducive to student learning. The session will also overview the institution’s academic assessment processes. By the end of the session, first year faculty will:

1. have self-assessed how their evaluation methods compare to a list of “best evaluation practices” in post-secondary settings;
2. better understand campus grading practices and tendencies; and
3. develop an understanding of what “academic assessment” is, and how it is practiced on the UW-W campus.

Equity Minded Teaching and Fostering Civil Dialogues

UWW is an inclusive campus serving students from diverse backgrounds with diverse needs. This session will focus on how to practice equity minded instruction and foster civil dialogues surrounding difficult issues in the classroom. By the end of this session faculty will:

1. Learn strategies to embed equity in their teaching practices and create classroom cultures that are genuinely inclusive of students from all backgrounds;
2. Exert their influence and skill to make a difference in the lives of all students; and
3. Design and adopt relevant and inclusive pedagogy, curriculum, language, roles, routines, and symbols that foster racial equity in the classroom as the norm.

Advice as You Look Toward Your Second Year

In this final First Year Program session, a panel of recently tenured faculty members from a variety of disciplines will share their experiences and advice on strategies for achieving tenure at UW-Whitewater. By the end of the session, first year faculty will:

1. have several examples of how faculty members successfully navigate the tenure process;
2. have better insight on how best to document accomplishments and plans in the Purple Book as they look toward their first review in fall 2021.