Elevate Fellows Cohort 2020
Application Announcement

The Teaching and Learning Transformation Center (TLTC) seeks applicants for the Elevate Fellows program, elevating teaching and learning through course transformation. Elevate Fellows’ mission is to help faculty redesign courses to improve student learning outcomes and increase outcome equity. Through backward course design, faculty fellows apply evidence-based approaches to create student-centered, active teaching and learning environments. Fellows are funded by the Provost’s Office (up to $7,000) and a small matching fund ($1,000) from their department or academic unit to support the course redesign.

The Elevate Fellows program is open to all full-time faculty members and instructors committed to teaching excellence. We welcome all applicants who want to redesign an undergraduate course they teach, learn more about teaching in higher education, and enliven their teaching. We encourage course directors, and multiple instructors who teach the same course to apply. While each instructor must submit an individual application, we have had instructors successfully collaborate to redesign a course in prior years. We also encourage instructors who are interested in redesigning their face-to-face course to a blended or online format to apply.

Fellows will be expected to commit 6-8 hours a month to the program. You will join a faculty learning community that will meet every other week for 75 minutes in Spring 2020 and Fall 2020. During the summer you will work independently on your redesign. You will also complete short homework assignments, required reports, and assessment activities. To learn more about program timeline and expectations and read about past projects that were funded, visit our website at tltc.umd.edu/elevate.

Application Details

The Elevate Fellows application consists of four parts and should take approximately 2 hours to complete. Applications should be submitted online at tltc.umd.edu/elevate-apply by December 1, 2019.

Part I: Course Information, Goals, and Personal Statement.

Part I should be typed and limited to two pages, and should include the following:

Course Information: Identify one undergraduate course that you regularly teach and would like to redesign. Include the following information about your course:
  a. Course number
  b. Course type (GenEd, prerequisite, major requirement)
  c. Current enrollment(s) (by semester, per section, and number of sections)
  d. Current structure (days per week, face time hrs/wk, discussion time hrs/wk, major class activities)
  e. Current instructors that typically teach the course
Course Involvement: Describe your history of involvement with the proposed course you would like to redesign (e.g., how long and how often have you taught the course; what innovations have you implemented in the course; how has the course evolved over time).

Course Redesign Goals: Describe your goals for redesigning your course. These goals can be areas for improvement within the current course design and structure (e.g., improving student engagement, achievement, and/or retention; addressing achievement gaps for certain groups; increasing use of technology) or larger changes to course design and structure (e.g., teaching in a new setting, such as a TERP classroom; transforming from a lecture to a project-based or team-based course). In describing your goals, specify which areas of TLTC’s Fearless Teaching Framework you hope to address.

Personal Statement: Explain your interest in joining the Elevate Fellows program and goals you have for your own teaching practice (e.g., gaining a better understanding of learning theory and evidence-based teaching; increasing your satisfaction with teaching; collaborating with instructors across campus; implementing more inclusive pedagogical practices). Highlight any prior engagement with teaching and learning innovations on campus or any academic, pedagogic, or technical interests and expertise.

Part II: Syllabus

Include the current syllabus for the course you plan to redesign.

Part III: Letters of Support

Letter from Department or Unit: Include a letter (e-mail is acceptable) from your department chair or unit head that:

a. describes the strategic value of the course redesign to the department.
b. acknowledges that the instructor has the sole control over the course redesign, or that co-instructors (specify names) have been notified and support the proposed course redesign.
c. commits your department or unit to provide $1,000 of matching funds to support the redesign.

The letter can either be turned in with the online application, or e-mailed directly to Tami Kopishke Smith (tltc@umd.edu) with the subject "Elevate 2020 Application Letter of Support-LASTNAME".

Part IV: Proposed Budget

Using the template provided, indicate how you propose to utilize the funds from the Elevate Program to accomplish the course redesign goals. Funds can be used for professional needs related to teaching, but not research or course buy-outs. Approved funding options include, but are not limited to, supporting graduate or undergraduate students to produce materials for course redesign, purchasing software or supplies related to the course redesign, attending a teaching and learning conference, or paying yourself a summer salary to work on course redesign (9 month employees only). More information about funding can be found at tltc.umd.edu/elevate-fellows-funding-information.

The budget may be adjusted in Spring 2020 as the course redesign proposal is more fully developed. Restrictions apply. Questions about the budget template can be directed to Tameka Jones, TLTC Manager of Business Services (tjones18@umd.edu).
Application Review

Applications will be evaluated on alignment of goals with TLTC’s mission, demonstration of commitment to teaching excellence and interest in student-centered, active learning approaches, and the strategic value of the course or instructor to the department or campus. We anticipate announcing decisions on December 13, 2019.

Contact Information

If you have questions, please contact:

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