Presidential Chair Fellows (PCF) Grant Program
2023-2025 Request for Proposals

Program Overview

Updates to PCF

The relaunched PCF grant program provides an opportunity for a team of two or more faculty members, both Senate and non-Senate, to transform undergraduate education. Starting this year, PCF will focus on supporting the **Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL)** at UC Berkeley. The Center for Teaching & Learning (CTL) is seeking grant applications from interested departmental teams aiming to advance curricular innovation through a SoTL study in partnership with the staff at CTL. The program will award **four (4)** grants of up to $20,000 per year for two years (up to $40,000 total) to support SoTL research beginning June 19, 2023.

Funds are intended to empower faculty teams from academic departments to engage in SoTL, especially where such work has not previously been done. As a result of this SoTL inquiry, teams are expected to engage in curricular revision or the introduction of new curricular components that will enhance learning experiences for undergraduate students.

Theme for PCF 2023-2025

The theme for PCF 2023-25 is "**Reimagining student learning in a research-intensive institution**." We are especially interested in supporting projects that tackle such questions as**:**

- How can faculty leverage world-class research to advance undergraduate education?

- How do students learn best in a research-intensive environment?

- How can we promote deeper student engagement in learning?

- What new barriers to learning arise in a research-intensive space and how can we address these barriers?

- How is learning affected by how we define student success and does redefining success impact learning?

Proposals in alignment with this theme may be especially competitive, but we will consider any and all submitted proposals for SoTL inquiry in undergraduate education.

Info Sessions

To help interested applicants understand these changes to PCF and prepare competitive applications, CTL will offer two info sessions over Zoom. These info sessions will provide an overview of the program and a Q&A with CTL staff. Following each session, participants may participate in optional office hours with CTL staff to workshop their ideas for applications.

Date	Time	Notes	Zoom Link
February 23, 2023	10-11 AM	Optional office hours from 11-11:30 AM.	Register here.

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Date	Time	Notes	Zoom Link
March 15, 2023	2-3 PM	Optional office hours from 3-3:30 PM.	[Register here]().

Recordings of the program overview and Q&A sessions from these info sessions will be made available on the PCF page of the CTL website.

Program Expectations

As part of the PCF grant program, selected Fellows are expected to:

- Communicate regularly with an assigned CTL staff mentor who serves as a thought partner and active collaborator in their SoTL study

- Participate in regular check-in meetings with their CTL staff mentor and other CTL staff

- Share budget expenditures and planning periodically and during a midpoint meeting

- Engage in at least 2-3 community sessions per year as part of the PCF Fellows cohort

- Present key takeaways and findings from their project at the Teaching and Learning Conference hosted by CTL in Spring 2024 and Spring 2025

- Engage in focused programming during Summer 2024 (only required for **two** representatives from each team who will each receive a $1500 summer stipend)

- Attend and participate in optional workshops as relevant to their research project and professional development as SoTL scholars

Required activities will be ongoing over the course of the award period **between June 2023 and June 2025**. Any accommodations for participation in these activities must be previously arranged with CTL to remain eligible for continued grant funding.

CTL Support

This grant program is a partnership between selected departmental teams and CTL staff. During the program, Fellows will be encouraged to leverage the entire team of CTL consultants. Each team will be matched with a CTL staff mentor based on disciplinary background and/or SoTL expertise. Through regular meetings and collaboration with this assigned mentor as well as the Assessment Specialist at CTL, PCF awardees will receive:

- subject matter expertise in higher education pedagogy to ensure the success of the proposed SoTL project

- guidance in navigating the literature and publishing in SoTL

- connection to a professional network of related scholars at and beyond UC Berkeley

- project management support to achieve a realistic timeline for project completion

Moreover, a team of undergraduate researchers (UGSRs) trained by CTL will be available to assist all PCF awardees with their projects. These UGSRs can support a variety of tasks such as coordinating communications, setting up online surveys, and analyzing or visualizing data.

Key Dates for AY 2023-2024

Date	Event	Notes
Friday, August 18, 2023	Community Kick-off Meeting	12-1:30 PM
Friday, January 12, 2024	Community Social and Check-in	12-1:30 PM
Friday, May 3, 2024	Teaching and Learning Conference with PCF Year 1 Wrap-up Meeting	Full day event, exact times TBD
Between June 3, 2024 and August 9, 2024	Summer 2024 Programming	Exact dates and format TBD

Applying to PCF

Selection Criteria

Qualified proposals will be prioritized based on the following criteria:

- **Scope**. Grants must support a SoTL research project aiming to better understand and advance undergraduate education. Proposals should focus on inquiry related to courses and curriculum offered in their department.

- **Feasibility**. Competitive grants should be achievable within the two-year grant period. Projects should demonstrate the involvement and support of course instructors in the design and implementation of the SoTL research study.

- **Impact**. Proposed SoTL studies should inform our approach to teaching in an academic department at UC Berkeley (e.g. via curriculum redesign). Competitive proposals have the potential to provide valuable insights to the larger instructor community.

- **Thematic Alignment**. Competitive proposals will speak to the theme of **Reimagining student learning in a research-intensive institution** described above.

- **Departmental Support**. Competitive grant proposals will convey that members of the department support and value both the findings and production of SoTL.

- **Program Diversity**. CTL aims to support a portfolio of diverse SoTL research projects and will provide no more than one grant per department.

Prior experience or engagement in SoTL is **not required** to be competitive for this grant. In close collaboration with the assigned mentor and other staff in CTL, selected Fellows will continue to build SoTL expertise and develop the design of their proposed study.

Allowable Types of Expenses

Grants typically fund a Graduate Student Researcher (GSR) who actively engages in the SoTL process alongside faculty team members. The PCF grant must be used for activities and materials that directly contribute to the SoTL study, such as:

- student personnel costs like compensating GSRs or UGSRs who work on developing any curricular improvements and assessing their impacts

- material/supply costs related to developing a curriculum-based intervention like educational technology, discipline-specific books and software, or video production

- material/supply costs related to conducting SoTL research like books on SoTL, access to research software, transcription services, or publication fees

- research participant incentives such as refreshments for focus groups or gift cards for individuals who participate in surveys and focus groups

- general operating costs for the project like resource printing or room reservations

Unallowable Types of Expenses

The grant program <u>cannot</u> be used to:

- pay stipends to graduate student instructors (GSIs)

- pay salaries of career or casual staff members (non-student titles)

- purchase or update standard software or software packages already licensed by campus

- purchase course supplies or equipment unrelated to the proposed research study

- reimburse expenditures made prior to the grant being awarded

Other Requirements

- Grants awarded through PCF will not exceed $40,000. For project budgets in excess of that amount, please specify departmental contributions or other funding sources.

- Funds will be awarded as **$20,000 per year for two years**, all of which must be spent by the end of the grant period (Spring 2025). Unspent funds will be transferred back to CTL. If necessary, awardees may request an extension to use funds up to 6 months.

- All applications **<u>must</u> include a letter of support** from the applicants' department chair and/or college dean. The letter should speak to a commitment to recognize and integrate the findings of the proposed study into departmental/college teaching and learning.

Application Eligibility and Process

All UC Berkeley faculty are eligible to apply. To submit an application for PCF, please download the application form, complete each section, and submit this completed document as an attachment via email to teaching@berkeley.edu with the subject line "PCF Grant Application."

Deadlines

Applications must be received by **May 19, 2023** to be reviewed. Decisions on awards for the PCF program will be announced by **June 2, 2023**. Awardees who choose to accept this award and participate in the program must notify CTL **within two weeks of the award notification**.

If you have questions regarding the PCF grant program or ideas for your proposal, please consult with the Center for Teaching & Learning (teaching@berkeley.edu).