

Teaching Exchange and Dialogue Groups (TED Groups)*

The Dean of the College of Natural and Health Sciences will appoint up to twelve faculty members to participate in this program during each academic year. Organized into self-governed and complementary groups of four, their only responsibilities will be to meet for discussion at least six times during the semester and to organize a round-robin schedule of class visits.

The intent of this program is to promote the exchange of ideas about effective teaching in a social and explicitly non-evaluative setting. This CNHS initiative is not about critiquing classroom performance. Rather, the TED Group members are meant to discuss and develop pedagogy, and to observe and learn from different styles of teaching. Ideally, participation in the program will foster a spirit of collaboration and collegiality among faculty members that lasts beyond the funding period.

Eligibility. All full-time faculty not on leave are eligible to participate. Groups of more or fewer than four can apply but require strong rationale and will be considered only after groups of four have been approved.

Application Procedure. Self-formed groups of four faculty colleagues should submit their names, a list of the courses they will teach, and a short, one paragraph description of the rationale for the group composition to the Dean.

Guidelines. Groups of four can be formed within or between departments or programs. The groups can also be formed within or between faculty ranks. We do not expect groups to form around shared expertise; however, the constitution of each group should be conducive to informed dialogue about pedagogy.

Deadline. The application deadlines are the first day of the fall and spring semesters. Applications will be accepted after these dates if the program is not full.

Reporting. Each group is asked to submit a short report describing the process and schedule of their discussions and class visits, and reflecting on the value of the experience. These reports should be submitted to the Dean within one month of the end of the semester in which the groups met.

Incentive. Each TED Group participant will receive a \$250 stipend, plus six reimbursed lunches to be taken at Panache or a similarly priced restaurant on campus.

*Teaching roundtables exist at Williams College, and much of the text above was used with the permission of the Associate Provost of Williams College. Parts of the UT program were also modified from the Teaching Triangles program at Bates College.