

Enhancing Student Learning and Success in Persistently Challenging Courses Grants Program
Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning | Retention and Student Success
Ferris State University

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to have selected a persistently challenging course?

Yes, you should have at least one PCC course selected by the time you submit your application. We have compiled lists of courses from the 2014-2022 academic years that align with the definitions of PCCs we have provided. The data were obtained from FSU's Office of Institutional Research & Testing and are not disaggregated by section or instructor; neither section numbers nor instructor names were included in the data we received. Please contact FCTL at fctl@ferris.edu to inquire if the course(s) you teach is (are) on the list.

Do I need to propose a solution or intervention for my PCC(s)?

No, you do not. If you are at Stage 1, 2, or 3 in our process, we will collaborate with you on each relevant part of the process leading up to (and including) developing a solution or intervention. We can also provide any professional development and/or training that might be needed to identify and implement an appropriate intervention.

What if I don't know what stage in the process I am at?

Contact FCTL at fctl@ferris.edu! We can discuss what work you have done and which sections of the Project Narrative best represent your circumstances.

May I submit on my own or as part a group?

Yes, to both! If you wish to work as part of a group, this group could be discipline-based or multidisciplinary. The Review Committee will give greater consideration to applications that involve a team of two or more; we also encourage you to consider how you may meaningfully engage students in this work. If you would like, FCTL can assist you in identifying potential collaborators.

What more can you tell me about funding for this work?

Funding may be used for purposes such as stipends, student assistants, travel to present your work, retreats, resources to support the intervention(s), data analysis, and release time. This is not, as noted, an exhaustive list. Projects do not require matching funds and no budget limit has been pre-determined. If you discover a need for additional funding once your project is underway, you may revisit the budget with FCTL. You are welcome to contact FCTL at fctl@ferris.edu if you have questions or would like assistance developing a budget.

How will applications be reviewed?

Applications will be reviewed by a committee of five individuals, comprised of one or more of each of the following: a member of the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning, a tenured or tenure track faculty member, and a non-tenure track faculty member. Applications will be reviewed using the [evaluation criteria](#) provided here. The review process will involve four steps:

1. Each committee member will independently review each application using the evaluation criteria, and then rank the applications based on an overall assessment of the aspects of the applications.
2. The committee will meet to discuss applications. Committee members may re-rank applications following the discussion.
3. Final rankings will be collated and a score for each application determined. For example, if a given application was ranked 1st by three committee members and 2nd by two members, the final composite score for that application would be seven.
4. The committee will consider the rankings and other variables (e.g., FCTL workload, total funds requested), and come to consensus decisions.