

The Critical Thinking Center at UWSP
Draft, Version 05-18-18

The Critical Thinking Center at UWSP defines “critical thinking” as “purposeful, reflective reasoning about what conclusions to draw or actions to take,” and understands critical thinking to encompass information literacy, argumentation, decision-making, problem-solving, and related skills.

The mission of the Critical Thinking Center is to

1. Support critical thinking instruction as a signature pedagogy at UW-Stevens Point’s three campuses.
2. Provide professional development opportunities and workshops for employers and community members who are interested in enhancing the critical thinking practiced within their organizations.
3. Collaborate with K-12 educational institutions and with technical colleges to encourage critical thinking instruction at all levels.

In support of this mission, and in partnership with CITL where appropriate, the Critical Thinking Center

1. Maintains an internal advisory board – consisting of faculty and instructional academic staff from across the campuses – both to draw upon disciplinary expertise in the construction of specialized programming and resources and to ensure that its general programming and resources are relevant to a variety of subject areas.
2. Maintains an external advisory board – consisting of employers, members of community organizations, K-12 educators, technical college representatives, and legislators – to ensure that the critical thinking skills taught at UW-Stevens Point’s three campuses and through workshops developed for employers and community members are aligned with workplace and community needs.
3. Provides professional development workshops (2-4 each semester) to faculty and instructional academic staff on topics related to critical thinking instruction and assessment.
4. Hosts reading and discussion groups for faculty and instructional academic staff using articles and books related to critical thinking.
5. Maintains a repository of resources to support critical thinking instruction and assessment, including lesson modules, assessment tools, and information about the best-practices related to teaching and assessing critical thinking.
6. Maintains a list of faculty and instructional academic staff willing to share their expertise in teaching critical thinking skills.
7. Encourages the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning related to critical thinking.
8. Hosts an annual or bi-annual critical thinking conference.

Staffing:

- Director (0.5 FTE) (?)
- ADA (0.25 FTE, quite possibly shared with CITL, Office of Academic Affairs, etc.) (?)

Housed:

- Alongside GEP Director? Alongside Assessment Director? Alongside CITL? Alongside Continuing Ed?

Position Description - Critical Thinking Center Director
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0.5 FTE, 12-month position, beginning July 1, 2019. (?)

The central responsibility of the Critical Thinking Center Director is ensuring that the Critical Thinking Center fulfills its mission. (See "Critical Thinking Center Description.")

The Critical Thinking Center Director is also expected to

1. Work closely with the General Education Committee, the Director of General Education, and the Assessment Director to explore the possibility of integrating critical thinking instruction into the General Education Program; help to develop, coordinate, and assess any resulting critical thinking curriculum.
2. Work closely with Continuing Education, the General Education Committee, the Director of General Education, and the Assessment Director to explore the possibility of developing a critical thinking certificate that can be earned both by degree-seeking students (perhaps as a pathway through the GEP) and by non-degree-seeking students (perhaps online); help to develop, coordinate, deliver, and assess any resulting critical thinking certificate.
3. Consult with individual departments, faculty, and instructional academic staff, as requested.
4. Contribute to student recruitment and retention efforts, where appropriate, with particular attention to the development and delivery of educational programming with a critical thinking focus for students at academic risk.
5. Pursue grants and other fundraising opportunities.