

February 2026



THE CenterPOINT Press

A monthly publication of the Center for Inclusive Teaching and Learning (CITL) at UW-Stevens Point

Share Your Interest in a New Community of Practice at UWSP

During the 2025-26 academic year, there has been a year-long Faculty Learning Community (FLC) on the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL). FLC members have been able to work together and learn about many ways both to improve their pedagogy and to share their knowledge. The experience has been so enjoyable and enriching that they presented at the Annual Teaching Conference on January 14, seeking to build a more permanent Community of Practice (CP) focused on SoTL at UWSP.

Would you like to learn more about a SoTL Community of Practice at UWSP? Maybe consider getting involved at the university level or beyond? If so, please complete a brief survey: [Interest Survey - SoTL Community of Practice at UWSP](#).

Course Design Shorts February Deadline

The application deadline for the Spring 2026 Course Design Shorts program is **Friday, February 13**. Interested faculty and instructors should visit the [CITL – Course Design Shorts web page](#) for more information and to register.

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REMINDER

Visit CITL's [Accessibility Training web page](#) for updates and more information about available training, resources, and CITL support on digital accessibility.



Contact Us

715-346-2945

Leave a message and a CITL team member will contact you.

If you are not sure who to contact, please send an email to our CITL inbox:

citl@uwsp.edu

TEST SCORING

drop-off for bubble sheet exams is Collins Classroom Center Room 463. Please use the drop slot in the door.

Follow the [instructions for preparing your Test Scoring packet](#).

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Help Promote the National Student Engagement Survey

UWSP and all of the Universities of Wisconsin will be administering the **National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)** in early 2026. This is done every three years to gather data and insights to improve students' experience. Please help promote NSSE to applicable students by stressing the importance of the survey. Here are some facts and points:

- NSSE is administered only to new baccalaureate seeking freshmen, and seniors graduating this year.
- The survey will be sent to these students to their UWSP email and a link in Canvas, starting Thursday, February 12.
- The survey takes approximately 30 minutes to complete, and students do not need to complete it all at once. They can stop and come back to it. The survey is not mandatory. However, students' input is valuable and appreciated.

The Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness (OIRE) will work closely with University Communications and Marketing and other campus partners to promote the NSSE survey. Promotional posters will be available in January for display in your area. Contact OIRE at oire@uwsp.edu with questions.

Why NSSE?

- In 2014, UWSP selected the Academic Advising Module and the results helped shape the decision to form the ACAC center.
- In 2017, UWSP selected 'First Year Experiences and Senior Transitions'. The results were beneficial to the campus for gauging the effectiveness of High Impact learning experiences.
- Faculty regularly consult NSSE results for their classroom and research planning. Student comments are examined and inform leaders of student sentiments.
- Student responses are used to inform campus leadership on Information Literacy needs.
- Student responses fuel the UW System Strategic plan in terms of High Impact Practices, classroom availability, and overall college satisfaction.

New Features Enabled in Canvas

DIFFERENTIATION TAGS

[Differentiation Tags](#) let instructors create hidden, custom student groups in Canvas—based on learning needs, pacing, interests, or support level—which can then be used to deliver targeted assignments, modules, and content through the “Assign To” feature. This feature streamlines personalized learning by allowing teachers to label learners with tags like “Needs Extra Support” or “Advanced,” enabling quick differentiation without affecting Sections or Groups.

ENHANCED SPEEDGRADER

[Enhanced SpeedGrader](#) introduces performance and usability upgrades—such as faster loading, smoother navigation, and streamlined workflows—designed to make evaluating student work more efficient for instructors. These improvements modernize the grading experience while supporting upcoming Canvas features like enhanced rubrics and AI-assisted grading tools.

DISCUSSION CHECKPOINTS

[Discussion Checkpoints](#) allow instructors to split a Canvas discussion into multiple due dates, such as an early “initial post” deadline and a later “reply” deadline, creating clearer expectations and pacing student engagement. This feature enhances participation by breaking discussions into structured stages, simplifying grading in SpeedGrader, and helping students manage their workload with separately visible checkpoints on their course calendar and to-do list.

COURSE TEXT STYLE ADJUSTMENTS

Some small cosmetic changes have been made to how UWSP Canvas looks. These changes were applied to Canvas at 5 p.m. on January 16, 2026.

- The size of headers has been decreased, and they have been colored to match the UWSP Purple in the sidebar.
- Headers and main text have been progressively indented to make it easier to discern the difference between them and skim through pages.
- The blockquote element has been recolored to better comply with accessible color contrast requirements.

Mental Health Resources Are Available

If the world is feeling a little overwhelming lately, you’re not alone. If you need some additional support, UWSP has some great resources available to support you and your students.

➔ SUPPORT FOR FACULTY/STAFF

Faculty and staff can access confidential help through the **Employee Assistance Program (EAP)**, which provides counseling, referrals, and wellness resources for a wide variety of personal and work-related concerns. [Learn more about the mental health resources available through EAP.](#)

➔ SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

The **UWSP Counseling Center** offers free, confidential support for students. Students can call (715) 346-3553 or stop by the Health and Wellness Center in Champions Hall.

Students also have access to Whole Campus Care, which adds even more support options—like 24/7 emotional assistance, online peer communities, self-guided wellness lessons, and virtual therapy that works around your schedule. Everything is available through the **Mantra Health app**.



Mantra Health
Mantra Health, Inc

Learning Together and Supporting Each Other

The 30th Annual UWSP Teaching Conference, *Teaching With Joy: Restoring Connection and Purpose*, held on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, provided an opportunity for faculty and staff to come together in community to explore ways to support connection, well-being, and joy in our teaching and across our campuses. Links to the conference presentations are available on the [2026 Teaching Conference web page](#).



I'm grateful for this annual opportunity to learn, connect, and recharge.

I can take bits and pieces from each talk within my field of teaching.
I find that valuable.



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