

High Impact Practices (HIP) Award

Revised August 2026

The High Impact Practices Funds provide money to an individual or a small team of faculty to create or improve teaching and learning High Impact Practices in their Undergraduate or Graduate courses at UTC.

Funds must be used to directly aid in the creation or improvement of new course High Impact Practices and learning activities. These awards are designed to fund new learning activities and innovation projects up to \$5,000.00.

Note that HIP funds are for requests between \$501.00 and \$5,000.00. For awards that are \$500.00 or less, please use the Classroom Mini-Fund Awards application process.

High Impact Practices

The Association of American Colleges & Universities (AAC&U) has identified specific teaching and learning practices that have been shown to be beneficial to students' learning outcomes. These high impact practices have benefit regardless of students' background. The High Impact Practices Funds will be awarded to projects that involve the improvement and development of the following:

- Writing-Intensive Courses
- Collaborative Assignments and Projects
- Research
- Diversity/Global Learning
- Service Learning, Community-Based Learning
- Capstone Courses and Projects
- Creative Endeavors

For more information about various types of high impact practices, visit [AAC&U's High-Impact Practices website](#).

Eligibility

- All current full-time and part-time UTC faculty and staff are eligible to apply for a High Impact Practices Funds. Graduate teaching assistants may apply as secondary applicants.

Proposal Criteria

- **New Course Component:** The proposed high impact practice must be a graded component of a specific course, producing clear deliverables. The request should be for true innovations in a course and not to shore up previous teaching activities.
- **Broad and Connected Impact:** Preference is given to award proposals that describe a use of funds that impacts a course in a broad and connected fashion, rather than a one-time moment or one-session event in a semester. Use of funds with speakers, for example, should involve student activities that follow-up and extend any one-time speaking event. Beyond including a syllabus for the class, the award should show through a timeline, the specific places in the semester that are directly connected to the operation of the award funds in the course.
- **Seed Money:** Preference is also given to projects that can be considered “seed money” for efforts that might lead to future department support or external funding. The committee is less inclined to fund projects that look like they would be dependent on these award funds in future semesters for longevity. In other words, **these funds are not intended to repetitively support projects in future semesters or iterations.**
- **Undergraduate and Graduate Courses:** Funds can be used for Undergraduate and Graduate course-related expenses are the intended focus for these awards.
- **University Strategic Plan:** Proposed projects must support one or more of UTC’s current [Strategic Plan Goals](#).
- **Nature of Impact:** With particular attention to sustainability, special consideration will be given to proposals that are:
 - Interdisciplinary
 - Collaborative
 - Associated with a general education course
 - Associated with courses with high D/F/W rates
 - Associated with undergraduate or graduate classes
- **Sustainable Materials:** A major, but not exclusive, consideration for awards is the acquisition of materials that can be used in future courses rather than one-time use. For this particular fund, the committee normally prefers at least 50% of the request be in the form of sustainable items.
- **Timely Applications:** The committee prefers to review proposals well in advance of their deployment. You are encouraged to apply early, rather than submit a proposal for something in process during the semester. Please do not apply for funds too closely to the time of the funded activity as the committee cannot automatically guarantee an award.

Student Reflection Activity

Walker Center Funding Awards are intended not only to foster innovative teaching practices but also to prompt students to become more aware of what makes for successful learning. To this end, we ask that each award include a Student Reflection Activity (normally graded) as part of the class’s use of the funding. Here, we offer some guidelines regarding this activity:

- **Reflecting on the Learning Process:** The student reflection activity should strive for reflection on the learning process as such (meta-reflection) rather than on the content of the learning. While we do hope, of course, that the award's funds are used to make the content more meaningful and engaging, we envision the three-stage reflection activity (see below) as an opportunity for students to gain insight into how learning works and how engaged learning makes the learning process more productive.
- **Three Stages of Reflection:** The award proposal should describe and structure student reflection in three distinct stages, for example (1) with a **pre-activity reflection** on the possible learning outcomes or goals of the activity, (2) with an **in-process reflection activity** integrated into funded course innovation, and (3) with a **post-activity reflection** that compares and discerns insights that may not have been anticipated by the pre-activity reflection. Overall, student reflection on the learning process as such should be integral throughout and not left to the end.

Budget Requirements

- **Maximum:** The maximum funding limit for HIP Award Funds is \$5,000.00. This is the absolute maximum regardless of the number of co-applicants.
- **Types of Requests:** Funding may be requested for: materials and supplies, specialized software and technical support not ordinarily provided by the department, expenses related to the implementation or administration of the project, student travel expenses, honoraria, and travel related to conferences on teaching and learning.
- **Sustainable vs. Single Use:** Award budgets need to distinguish between sustainable (reusable) items and one-time use items.
- **Honoraria:** This fund is not normally intended for guest speakers. Please look to your Department or College for such funding. Regarding speaker honoraria, there is a \$1,000.00 maximum per award request regardless of the number of speakers involved, and a per diem can only be applied to non-UTC affiliated speakers and community partners. Bear in mind that this \$1,000.00 requires justification and should not be considered the "norm" for a speaker's stipend, especially if travel is not involved. The committee encourages applicants to find partners for honoraria and food expenses, especially by sharing expenses with one's Department. The per diem limitation effectively means that applicants may fund a non-UTC affiliated guest's meal but **not** the meals of UTC faculty/staff who may join the applicant for that meal. Please look to the home Department for such funding.
- **Travel Expenses (Classes):** The fund supports travel for off-campus class visits. Note that this is for local and regional travel only. The fund does not support long distance or international travel. Student travel expenses cannot be reimbursed to students directly.

Limitations and Restrictions

- **Limitations:** Funds may not be used for stipends, honoraria, or per diem reimbursement for UTC faculty, staff, or student employees.

- **Food Events:** Funds are not provided for food for special events or gatherings (beyond a speaker's per diem as described above).
- **Speaker Limitation:** Note that there is a restriction on one-time events for guest speakers and workshops per Department: the limit for these activities is \$1,000 per semester for any given department. We encourage you to coordinate with your Department Head and faculty when requesting such funds as your request could exhaust this pool for your Department.
- **Augment Educational Program:** Funds must be used to augment the regular educational program, not to substitute funds or services that would otherwise be provided during the time-period in question.
- **Textbooks:** Funds cannot be used for the purchase of course textbooks.
- **Other Limitations:** Please note that award funds cannot be used for prizes, gift cards, contests, donations, food (except speaker per diem), or for Research Dialogues posters. (In-class poster projects will be considered on a case-by-case basis.) Neither can funds be used for a Department's seminar speaker series.

Reimbursement

- **Funding Cycle and Period:** Applications are accepted each month. If a proposal is accepted for funding, all funds must be spent by the end of the term of your award (fall, spring, or summer; or academic year, if a year-long project).
- **Reimbursement Process:** The awardee must work with their department Administrative Assistant and the WCTL Administrative Assistant to handle invoices, receipts, and reimbursements. Purchases should be discussed with these Administrative Assistants in the event that university-connected vendors ought to be involved. The Walker Center will provide additional reimbursement guidelines upon the awarding of awards.
- **Reimbursement Limitations:** Note that students cannot be reimbursed directly for award-related expenses. These funds are only designed for awardees, through their departments, to handle expenses.

Program Final Documentation and Dissemination Requirements

- **Final Report:** Award recipients will be required to submit a final report. The due date for the final report submission will be based on the project's completion timeline, normally by the end of the semester in which the project is completed. Note: If a final report is not submitted, the recipient forfeits the right to apply for a future WCTL Award.
- **Dissemination of Results:** Award recipients must participate in either a fall or spring Award Symposium hosted by WCTL. The panel presentation involves offering a five-minute presentation of the results of the funding, showcasing learning innovation at UTC. These gatherings are typically over lunch and are open to the university through registration.

Award Cycle and Review Process

- **Application Form and Deadlines:** Proposals should be submitted using the High Impact Practices Funds application form and checklist as found on the WCTL Award Website, including any required attachments by the 1st of the month. (Note that sometimes deadlines are jarred because of weekends and holidays, so please consult the WCTL website for those dates).
- **Monthly Cycle:** Proposals will be considered on a monthly basis by an interdisciplinary committee using the committee's evaluation guide. Please do not count on funding for a class project or design your course to depend on an award. Be sure to allow the committee ample time to complete its review process.
- **Failure to Use the Designated Forms:** Applications that do not use the designated application form will not be considered by the committee.
- **Award Notice:** Applicants will be notified within 30 days of award status.