

2021 WMU Climate Change Teaching Fellows Mini-Grants

In collaboration with the Office for Sustainability, the WMU Climate Change Working Group (CCWG) seeks to foster the integration of climate change as a topic in WMU courses at all levels and in all disciplines, and continue to build a set of interdisciplinary Climate Change Teaching Fellows. Preference will be given to new and prior unfunded applicants; however, a prior funded fellow may apply.

Climate Change Teaching Fellows are supported by mini-grants of \$500, transferred to the department's research fund and cost center for unrestricted reimbursement for travel, materials, speakers, etc. related to curriculum improvements.

Mini-grants are available for teaching at any level from introductory to Essential Studies to required courses for majors or graduate classes/seminars. These grants can be used for further developing ten percent (10%) more climate change content into an existing course or to create a new course that includes at least ten percent (10%) of the content related to climate change.

The program is open to all board-appointed faculty across the university, and curricular innovations / instructional strategies may address climate change science, engineering, health, education, business, politics, ethics, communication, psychology, history, literature, artistic representation, or other fields. Successful proposals must address the topic of human caused climate change, stress the urgency of the climate crisis, and the importance of individual and collective action. Grants need to include an assessment of a student learning outcome(s) related to the improvements to the course.

Mini-Grant Process

1. Submit your grant proposal to the Climate Change Teaching Fellows Mini-Grant program (denise.keele@wmich.edu), and describe your course and potential climate change curricular improvements you would like to make in approximately 500 words.
2. If you are awarded a mini-grant by the CCWG Executive Committee, a member of the CCWG will be assigned as your mentor to help you with your curricular improvements.
3. Develop materials in conjunction with your mentor. Materials could include revised syllabus, lecture/slide presentation(s), specific ideas for reading that could be added to the course, student assignments, visiting speakers, etc.
4. Use your new materials in your course during Academic Year 2021-2022.
5. Present results of climate change curriculum/instructional changes and assessment at a Climate Change Teaching Fellow forum organized by the CCWG and open to the university.

Climate Fellows Mini-Grant Timeline

March 15, 2021	Submission of proposals due
March 26, 2021	Notification from CCWG and mentor assignments for awarded proposals
AY 21-22	Improvement of course (integration of new materials, speaker, lectures, etc.)
AY 21-22	Test and assess course improvement(s)
Spring 2022	Presentation at Climate Change Teaching Fellow Forum