



# Academy of Educators

Office of Education

 Washington  
University in St. Louis  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

## FAQs

### What is the Academy?

The Academy is a program within the Office of Education at WUSM that supports faculty who are engaged in teaching throughout all aspects of education on our campus: MD program students, graduate students, residents, fellows, and trainees in the PT, OT and PACS programs. The Academy has formal programs within it to support the development and refinement of teaching and education skills. Additionally, it oversees all education-related awards conferred by WUSM, including support of the Loeb Teaching Fellows program. It encourages research and innovation education through a small grants program. The selected fellows of the Academy will form a community of educators to network with each other, promote education excellence at WUSM, and assist in providing faculty development activities to faculty at WUSM.

### What is the history of the Academy?

After the 2015 LCME site visit to WUSM, concern was raised for inadequate support of faculty engaged in education. Then-deans Shapiro and Whelan appointed three task forces to address this: consider the role of teaching/education in academic promotion, consider the compensation/protected time faculty have for teaching, and examine formal support for faculty through formation of an Academy. After extensive benchmarking to other schools and participation in a consortium of other academies, a decision was made in summer 2018 to formally commit to formation of an Academy at WUSM.

Dr. Mary Klingensmith was chosen as the first Director of the Academy, and the first class of 42 fellows were selected and inducted in September 2019.

### Why should I aspire to become a fellow of the Academy?

Membership in the Academy recognizes high achievement in education excellence. The service-based (rather than honorific) nature of the Academy means members will be actively engaged as community members, promoting education excellence and a culture where education is highly valued and conducted at the highest levels. Through networking and learning from others, each Academy member will advance their understanding of and excellence in all aspects of education.

### How does one become a fellow/member of the Academy?

Annually faculty will be invited to apply for Academy membership. The website has full details of the application; in brief, applicants will need to demonstrate excellence in TWO of six domains:

- a. Direct Teaching

- b. Instructional Development and Curriculum Design
- c. Advising and Mentorship
- d. Educational Administration and Leadership
- e. Educational Research or Scholarship
- f. Assessment and Evaluation

Membership criteria will require a formal review process with membership selection being a form of high honors. External reviewers will be integral to the selection process. Service commitments will be required to maintain membership with renewal applications needed at regular intervals.

### **Who can participate in the Academy?**

Members/fellows must be faculty members of WUSM who have been involved in teaching/education for at least three years beyond the completion of their terminal training. However, ALL faculty at WUSM will be encouraged to participate in the Academy programs (certificate programs and workshops, grants program for innovation and research in education). In the future, we will consider expanding other categories for Academy members.

### **Where is the Academy housed?**

The Academy won't have a physical home (although Melody Cox, Academy Administrator has an office on 5<sup>th</sup> floor FLTC). Instead, the fellows of the Academy will hold meetings and workshops in conference and classrooms across the WUSM campus.

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