

**Faculty Certificate in Teaching Excellence  
Independent Project  
Research on Teaching and Learning Proposal**

To fulfill the Independent Project component of the *Faculty Certificate in Teaching Excellence*, you may choose to prepare a *Research on Teaching and Learning Proposal*. This option requires the following:

1. A review of at least five scholarly articles on research on teaching and learning in post-secondary education.
2. An identification of one or more critical issues for learning in your discipline.
3. The articulation of a question that explores these critical learning issues.
4. A proposal for the way the question could be explored.

Below is a possible structure to guide your proposal drawn from Western's Human Research Ethics Board (HREB) protocol. This structure is only meant to be a place to start if that is helpful to you. Given the diversity of ways of knowing, this structure may not reflect your approach to exploring questions about teaching and learning, such as anti-oppressive, decolonial, and disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches to research. Please use whatever structure best reflects your approach to these types of questions.

**1. Cover page:**

Title of Project  
Name  
Department  
Email

**2. Abstract/Summary:**

Provide a lay summary of the research project (approximately three to five lines).

**3. Introduction (Approximately five to seven pages)**

Outline the project rationale, including relevant background information and justification. Cite the five or more references in this section. Please include a clear statement of the purpose and objectives of this project [including the question(s) you are exploring].

**4. Method (Approximately three to five pages)**

This section should include three subsections: participants, research design, and procedure. Each is addressed in turn below.

#### **4a. Participants**

Outline who would be participating in this research (e.g., undergraduate students enrolled in a specific course, graduate students in a particular department). List any potential risks or benefits for the project participants.

#### **4b. Research Design**

Describe the research design, methods, and any measures you might use (e.g., survey questions, interview protocol).

#### **4c. Procedure**

Describe the procedure the project will follow (i.e., a complete description of what activities are involved). This often involves describing what a project participant would experience from the beginning to the end of the research, including how they would be invited to participate in the project (e.g., in person, by e-mail), what they would be doing during the research, and other important details for the project (e.g., when the project would be conducted, how long it would take, incentives that would be provided for participation in the project).