



Common Curriculum Faculty Navigators Academic Year 2023-24

The UConn University Senate recently passed an implementation plan to create the new Common Curriculum for Leadership and Global Citizenship that will replace our current General Education Curriculum in Fall of 2025.

The Common Curriculum prepares students to tackle 21st-century challenges by allowing them to combine coursework across a variety of disciplines to expand their worldviews, enhance their range of skills, and develop into critical, creative, emotionally intelligent, and interdisciplinary thinkers. The program also allows them to dive deeper into areas of interest outside of their majors. The Curriculum is designed to help students learn how to learn and to:

- Be versatile in a rapidly changing world;
- Combine knowledge in innovative ways;
- Apply learning strategies to new contexts, including their major;
- See local and global patterns and the interconnectedness of intellectual work; and,
- Appreciate how we need each other to tackle today's challenges.

Faculty Navigators will play a central role in capacity building and direct faculty support as we:

- Migrate courses from the current General Education curriculum for inclusion in the new Common Curriculum;
- Develop new courses for inclusion in the Common Curriculum;
- Develop new Themes in which students can complete a focus area; and
- Communicate with stakeholders about the new Common Curriculum.

For the academic year 2023-24, ten Faculty Navigator positions will be available. Navigators may specialize in areas such as:

- Working with departments on aligning existing courses to the learning objectives of the new Common Curriculum;
- Working with faculty on the redesign of existing courses;
- Working with faculty on the development of new courses;
- Providing feedback on syllabi in general and on assessment and accessibility in particular;
- Participating in the larger project of building a culture of assessment and accessibility;
- Developing materials about our two new competencies: Dialogue and Digital, Media, & Information Literacy; and
- Developing and providing faculty training on topics such as: writing effective learning objectives, aligning assignments to objectives, equity-minded course design, etc.

These appointments provide an opportunity for interested faculty to strengthen their skills in teaching & learning, collaboration, and faculty support. They also allow faculty to participate in developing UConn's exciting new curriculum.

Faculty Navigators will participate in regular monthly meetings as a group. Each Navigator will develop a plan with details about how they will meet their goals and will provide a report of accomplishments each semester.

The hourly commitment may vary throughout the year, with the expectation that each Navigator will commit an average of 5 hours a week to this work. Each Navigator will take on the role for a full academic year with the possibility of renewing for a second and/or third year.

Navigator Support

Upon appropriate approvals and in accordance with the University's [Faculty Compensation Policy](#), this assignment may be eligible for overload compensation. Each Navigator will consult with their department head to identify the most appropriate form of compensation, which may vary depending on the timing of the effort and regular workload commitments. Options include: \$7,750 in overload compensation, one course buyout, or waived compensation which may be used toward GA support. The appointment period will run from May 1, 2023, through April 30, 2024.

Application Process

Applicants should be current full-time faculty members at the University (tenured, tenure track, and CIRE faculty are all welcome to apply).

To apply, you should submit a letter of interest (1-2 pages) addressing the following questions:

- 1) Why would you like to be a faculty navigator?
- 2) Which Topic(s) of Inquiry fall most directly into your area of expertise/experience?
- 3) Which area (course migration, course revision, course development) would you be especially interested in supporting?
- 4) What would you offer as a faculty navigator given your experience and expertise with general education and/or with the development thus far of the Common Curriculum?
- 5) What would you hope to learn or gain through the faculty navigator position?

Each application should also be accompanied by a letter of support from the department head (or dean for non-departmentalized schools) indicating their support for the applicant serving as a Common Curriculum Faculty Navigator in the academic year 2023-24. The name of the faculty member who is applying should be included in letters of support.

The nominee's letter of interest and the letter of support should be emailed to: commoncurr@uconn.edu.

Please email Karen McDermott at karen.mcdermott@uconn.edu or Pam Bedore at pamela.bedore@uconn.edu with any questions about the Faculty Navigator position or the application process.

Deadline for applications: April 1, 2023
Decisions communicated by April 15, 2023