

2025 ITL Conference Theme

## **17th Annual Innovations in Teaching and Learning Conference**

***Teaching for the Future: AI, Analog and Beyond***  
**Thursday, September 25, 2025 | Virtual Sessions**

**Friday, September 26, 2025 | In Person Sessions**

The **Innovations in Teaching and Learning Conference** has always been a unique space for Mason instructors, GTAs, administrators, and staff to forge a sense of community around teaching and learning. This year, the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Innovations in Teaching & Learning (ITL) conference will feature virtual sessions on September 25, 2025, and in-person sessions on September 26, 2025.

The theme for the 2025 conference is *Teaching for the Future: AI, Analog and Beyond*. The topic of Generative AI has generated scores of articles and think pieces in the collegiate teaching community in recent years. On one hand, instructors have been encouraged to incorporate this rapidly changing tool into their current teaching practice, resulting in new directions in pedagogy. On the other hand, instructors have also been encouraged to utilize methods that rely on active learning strategies in response to increased use of generative AI by students.

We look forward to an exciting conference this year!

Please email [stearns@gmu.edu](mailto:stearns@gmu.edu) if you have any questions.

2025 ITL Request for Proposals

## 2025 Innovations in Teaching and Learning Conference

### Teaching for the Future: AI, Analog and Beyond

#### Request for Proposals, Reviewers and Session Hosts

The RFP for 2025 ITL is closed.

The Stearns Center for Teaching and Learning invites all graduate students, faculty and staff at George Mason University to submit proposals to present on their teaching and teaching-focused research at the 17th annual Innovations in Teaching and Learning (ITL) Conference. This hybrid conference will have virtual sessions on **Thursday, September 25, 2025**, and **in-person sessions on Friday, September 26, 2025**. The deadline for proposal submission is **March 23, 2025, at 11:59 p.m.**

#### Conference Theme

ITL is an opportunity for the entire George Mason community to come together to exchange tips strategies, tools and resources with colleagues from across the university. This year's theme is **Teaching for the Future: AI, Analog and Beyond**. The topic of Generative AI has generated scores of articles and think pieces in the collegiate teaching community in recent years. We seek proposals that share **strategies on the use of AI** in teaching and learning, as instructors have been encouraged to incorporate this rapidly changing tool into their current teaching practice, resulting in new directions in pedagogy. We also seek proposals that **highlight existing engagement techniques**, as instructors have also been encouraged to utilize methods that rely on active learning strategies in response to increased use of generative AI by students. We are also interested in proposals that explore **the implications of AI** in course, curriculum, program and policy development. However, we also encourage proposals on any aspect of teaching and learning.

We invite you to view the ITL-24 Annual Report to see the conference's impact on professional development around teaching and learning.

## ITL 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Have questions about ITL? Visit our ITL FAQ webpages and [listen to our AMA](#) (Ask Me Anything) for important answers!

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The deadline for proposal submissions is **March 23, 2025, at 11:59 p.m.**

We particularly seek proposals on any aspect of **teaching, learning and curriculum development**. We continue to accept proposals on the conference theme. If you are teaching, you have something to share with your colleagues at ITL!

Session Types include:

- Interactive Session, a 50-minute individual or group presentation (in person)
- Teaching Talk, a 10-minute lightning talk (virtual)
- On Demand, an asynchronous teaching resource (online)

Please see the [Session Proposal Guide](#) for details for each session as well as guidelines for proposal development.

ITL-25 RFP Session Proposal Guide [DOWNLOAD](#)

## REQUEST FOR REVIEWERS

Not able to submit a proposal? We are also seeking faculty and staff to review proposals and help select the best possible conference program. You can propose a session and still serve as a reviewer. Reviewers typically review 6-10 proposals, which takes about 1-2 hours to complete. You will score proposals using a rubric we'll provide, offer comments/suggestions and make an overall recommendation. Proposal reviews will be due about two weeks after you receive them. Once proposals are submitted, we will follow up with volunteers with their proposal assignments and detailed instructions. If you have any questions, please contact the ITL Conference Director, Crystal Anderson ([cander8@gmu.edu](mailto:cander8@gmu.edu)).

If you are interested, please complete the Reviewer Volunteer Form.

**The deadline for the reviewer form is March 17, 2025, at 11:59 p.m.**

## **REQUEST FOR SESSION HOSTS**

Want to volunteer at the ITL Conference? We are also looking for volunteers to act as session hosts for Teaching Talks (virtual sessions on Zoom on September 25) and Interactive Sessions (in-person sessions in the Johnson Center on September 26). As a facilitator for either session type, you will be responsible for introducing the session and presenter(s), keeping time, reporting session attendance, reminding attendees to complete our survey and closing out the session. Session hosts for virtual sessions will have a tech host that will handle technology issues, admit attendees and monitor the chat box. We will provide scripts as well as a training video for the session.

If you are interested, please complete the Volunteer Session Host Form.

### **VOLUNTEER SESSION HOST FORM**

Please visit our [ITL Proposals FAQ page](#) for answers to Frequently Asked Questions!

2025 ITL Proposals FAQ

## Frequently Asked Questions

### ITL: Ask Me Anything (AMA)

Check out the below video to hear the answers to some FAQs! Recorded March 3, 2025:

<https://youtu.be/5x4kukuEA-k7si-u9kyRRlagg3Z0E8a>

## Session Hosts

***If you have additional questions, we encourage you to contact the Conference Director, Crystal Anderson ([cander8@gmu.edu](mailto:cander8@gmu.edu)) or send an inquiry to [stearns@gmu.edu](mailto:stearns@gmu.edu) with the subject line "2025 ITL".***

### **What does being a session host entail?**

As a facilitator for Interactive or Teaching Talk Sessions, you will be responsible for introducing the session and presenter(s), keeping time, reporting session attendance, reminding attendees to complete our survey and closing out the session. Session hosts for Teaching Talk sessions will have a tech host that will handle technology issues, admit attendees and monitor the chat box. We will provide scripts as well as a training video for session hosts.

Please complete our [Volunteer Session Host Form](#) to sign up to be a Session Host.

### **Why ask for individuals to volunteer so early as a session host?**

We would like to assign session hosts at the same time we create the draft schedule for the conference. As a result, presenters and session hosts would be notified at the same time and have more time to prepare.

## Submitting Proposals

The RFP for 2025 ITL is closed.

***If you have additional questions, we encourage you to contact the Stearns Center ([stearns@gmu.edu](mailto:stearns@gmu.edu)). If you wish to discuss your proposal***

***content ideas before submitting a proposal, please contact Conference Director, Crystal Anderson ([cander8@gmu.edu](mailto:cander8@gmu.edu)).***

### **What's the format for the proposal?**

Session proposals are submitted via Request for Proposals Form. Proposals for all sessions include an abstract and a description of additional criteria specific to each session. We encourage you to consult the [Session Proposal Guide](#) for details about each session proposal type and review criteria.

### **What are the requirements to be a presenter?**

We ask that the lead presenter be an instructor of record or staff member at George Mason. Co-presenters should be related to the instructor's work but do not need to be affiliated with Mason. In the past, this has included other instructors, administrators/staff, graduate student instructors of record, graduate student teaching assistants, undergraduate students, government/non-profit employees, etc.

### **I'm a graduate student. Can I present?**

Yes, we especially welcome your submission as a Teaching Talk. We do ask that the lead presenter for Interactive Sessions be instructor of record or staff member at George Mason. However, there may be situations where it is appropriate for a graduate teaching assistant to be the lead presenter for an Interactive Session. Graduate students working with faculty on curriculum development or teaching are encouraged to present as co-presenters.

### **Can my undergraduate students be presenters?**

Yes. We do ask that the lead presenter for Interactive Sessions be instructor of record or staff member at George Mason. However, there are situations where it is appropriate for an undergraduate student to be a presenter for an Interactive Session. Undergraduate students serving as Learning Assistants or Teaching Assistants or working with faculty on curriculum development or teaching are encouraged to present as co-presenters for Interactive Sessions. Also, students are encouraged to co-present if they have participated in the teaching strategies or activities the instructor presents.

## **My teaching idea or activity isn't long enough for a whole session—should I still propose it?**

Yes! We encourage you to submit it as:

- A Teaching Talk, an individual, 10-minute lightning presentations via Zoom on a teaching strategy, innovation, technique, tool or SOTL research
- An On Demand Resources, which are teaching artifacts from courses. These include, but are not limited to, assignments, in-class activities, lecture notes/slide decks, syllabi and other supplementary teaching materials.

Still not sure which session type is the best fit for you? See the [Session Proposal Guide](#) for details and samples of proposals or reach out to Conference Director, Crystal Anderson ([cander8@gmu.edu](mailto:cander8@gmu.edu)), to discuss your idea.

## **I have an idea, but it's "nothing new or what I'd call innovative." Will anyone be interested? Should I submit my idea?**

Yes! What's not new to you may be new to someone else. We seek to meet the teaching practice needs of all instructors, from someone new to teaching to an experienced instructor who has been formally trained in educational theory and practice. We also encourage proposals that are built on evidence-based practices. Innovation doesn't mean having to reinvent the wheel. If you have an "oldie, but goodie" idea, we want to hear those, too.

## **I have a tip/strategy for my class, but would people outside of my discipline be interested?**

Yes! If it's something that is helping your students learn, it is likely something that is adaptable to other contexts. We seek proposals situated in a context (your class) but could be applied or adapted to a variety of disciplines. *If you need help or ideas on how to "translate" your activity or present your idea in a way that is applicable across disciplines, we encourage you to ask* Crystal Anderson ([cander8@gmu.edu](mailto:cander8@gmu.edu)).

## **Can I have an extension/more time to complete and submit my proposal?**

We strongly encourage you to submit your proposal on time to guarantee that it is considered and reviewed by the selection committee. Presenters will have three weeks to submit proposals. Late proposals will not be considered.

### **I have a couple different session ideas. Can I submit more than one proposal?**

Yes! There is no limit to the number of session proposals you can submit, but acceptance may be impacted by the needs of the program. Interactive Sessions are the most selective session type. There is no limit to serving as a co-presenter on multiple sessions. However, please consider scheduling realities may impact your ability to serve as a co-presenter on multiple sessions. We encourage you to submit an On Demand proposal in addition to your Teaching Talk as a way to increase your chances of being selected for our program.

### **How do I submit my proposal?**

Please submit your proposal via our Request for Proposals Form.

### **When are proposals due?**

Proposals are due Sunday, March 23, 2025, at 11:59 p.m.

### **How will my proposal be reviewed?**

Your proposal will be reviewed using the following criteria. Abstracts will be rated on a scale of 2-10 (2 being the lowest score and 10 being the highest). Other criteria will be ranked on a scale of 1-5 (1 being the lowest score and 5 being the highest). In addition, the reviewer will provide an overall recommendation for acceptance as well as comments.

- Abstract: The abstract describes the topic.
- Relevancy: The abstract explains the knowledge or skills attendees will learn from the session.
- Engagement, Pedagogy or Reflection: The proposal describes a specific interactive activity, how the topic relates to the presenter's teaching practice and goals or how a teaching artifact relates to the student learning outcomes of the course.

## **When will I find out if my proposal was selected?**

We will notify proposers by email in late April or early May. We ask that authors of selected proposals confirm their intent to present by mid-May via an online form included in the acceptance email.

## **Proposal Reviews**

The Request for Reviewers Form for 2025 ITL is closed.

*If you have additional questions, we encourage you to contact the Conference Director, Crystal Anderson ([cander8@gmu.edu](mailto:cander8@gmu.edu)) or send an inquiry to [stearns@gmu.edu](mailto:stearns@gmu.edu) with the subject line "2025 ITL".*

### **How do I become a reviewer?**

Please complete our Request for Reviewers Form before March 17, 2025, at 11:59PM. You will be contacted with your review assignments and additional information in March.

### **I have or am submitting a proposal; can I still serve as a reviewer?**

Yes! On the Request for Reviewers form, you can indicate that you have submitted a proposal. You will not be assigned your own proposal to review.

### **What's involved with reviewing?**

Proposals this year consist of a 150-word abstract and responses to two, session-specific questions. Typically, we ask people to review 6-10 proposals, and it takes about 1-2 hours to complete. The more volunteers we have, the fewer proposals we will ask you to review—so please help spread the word. You will be asked to review no more than 10 proposals. Proposal reviews will be submitted through an online form. **Note:** *Proposals will not include identifying presenter information, and proposers will receive your review comments without your name attached (double-blind).*

### **How do I submit my reviews?**

You will submit your reviews via our online form (the link will be shared via email). We recommend writing your comments in a Word document and then copying and pasting them into the online form.

### **Can I have more time to do my reviews?**

If you find yourself needing more time to complete your reviews, please contact the Stearns Center with the subject line "2025 ITL Reviewer." We may be able to grant an extension of a day or two, but due to the tightness of our notification schedule for presenters, we are unable to grant extensions beyond that.

### **How are proposals evaluated?**

Proposals will be reviewed using the following criteria. Abstracts will be rated on a scale of 2-10 (2 being the lowest score and 10 being the highest). Other criteria will be ranked on a scale of 1-5 (1 being the lowest score and 5 being the highest). In addition, the reviewer will provide an overall recommendation for acceptance as well as comments.

- Abstract: The abstract describes the topic.
- Relevancy: The abstract explains the knowledge or skills attendees will learn from the session.
- Engagement, Pedagogy or Reflection: The proposal describes a specific interactive activity, how the topic relates to the presenter's teaching practice and goals or how a teaching artifact relates to the student learning outcomes of the course.

2025 ITL Conference Registration

# INNOVATIONS in Teaching & Learning conference

Register Early! Online conference registration closes at midnight Friday, September 19, 2025.

Click the button below to register for free:

Register here!

While registration is closed, we offer on-site registration:

- for Thursday, you will need to email [stearns@gmu.edu](mailto:stearns@gmu.edu).
- for Friday, you will need to come to the Registration desk where we will do on-site registration.

Registration is required in order to attend.

Please contact the Stearns Center for Teaching and Learning at [stearns@gmu.edu](mailto:stearns@gmu.edu) with any questions.

## 2025 ITL Conference Program

Presenters for Interactive Sessions can access their room numbers on the printed program after September 5. The program will be available at the registration desk at Dewberry Hall on September 26. Presenters for Teaching Talk sessions will be sent Zoom links for their sessions and can access them on Canvas.

**Don't forget to check out our On Demand materials! You can find those in the 2025 ITL On Demand Resources webpages linked to the right in the sub navigation menu.**

**Scroll down for our At-a-glance schedules:**

### Thursday, September 25 Teaching Talk Sessions via Zoom:

Time	Session Titles	Session Titles	Session Titles
<b>9:30-9:50am Welcome</b>			
<b>10:00-10:50am</b>	<b>Foreign Language Teaching and Student Engagement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Debates in Russian Class</li> <li>• Experimenting with AI in Spanish</li> <li>• AI-facilitated Cultural Immersion Strategies</li> </ul>	<b>Game Design and Programming Pedagogy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusivity and Diverse Character Design</li> <li>• Interactive Programming Pedagogy</li> <li>• Badge Board and Gamification</li> </ul>	<b>Faculty and Students as Learners</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transforming Courses with AI-driven Design</li> <li>• Assessment Choice in Online Courses</li> <li>• Interdisciplinary Faculty Connectedness Through Book Club</li> </ul>
<b>10-minute Transition Break</b>			
<b>11:00-11:50am</b>	<b>AI and Student Engagement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AI-Powered Strategies for Student Engagement</li> <li>• Active Learning &amp; AI</li> <li>• AI in Education</li> </ul>	<b>Student Success and Ethics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Room for Reasonable Doubt</li> <li>• A Structured Assessment Methods for Students Success</li> <li>• Using and Critiquing Generative AI</li> </ul>	<b>Enhanced Learning and Emotion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practicing "Hot" in "Cold" Settings</li> <li>• 3 SEL Signature Practices</li> <li>• Cultivating Empathy in Undergraduate Classrooms</li> </ul>
<b>10-minute Transition Break</b>			
<b>12:00-12:50pm</b>	<b>High Impact Practices</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Psychology Jobs Before Graduation</li> <li>• Community-centered Linguistics Pedagogy</li> <li>• Bridging Theory &amp; Practice</li> </ul>	<b>Writing Instruction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teaching Inquiry Beyond the Essay</li> <li>• Self-Study and WIC</li> <li>• In-class Writing Assignments Can Be More Than Just Writing</li> </ul>	<b>Tech-Enhanced Teaching</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digital Image Formats (GIFs) and Social Media</li> <li>• Leveraging Podcasts in Asynchronous Learning</li> <li>• Generative AI in Classrooms</li> </ul>

# Friday, September 26 Interactive Sessions In-Person



Time	Session Titles	Session Titles	Session Titles	Session Titles	Session Title
<b>9:00-9:30am Light Breakfast</b>					
<b>9:30-9:50am Opening Remarks</b>					
10:00-10:50am	Busywork, AI, and Iterative Learning	Empowering Students in Mason Core	All-Inclusive Graduate Online Learning	Interactive Research-driven Pre-college STEM Camp	
11:00-11:50am	Integrating Generative-AI in Graduate Instruction	From Curriculum to Careers	Developing AI Resources for Programs	Finding Your Hidden Teaching Superpowers	AI for Activity Design
<b>12:00-12:50pm Lunch</b>					
1:00-1:50pm	Drafting Multiple-Choice Items with AI	Career-Ready Certification Through Industry-Academia Collaboration	Learn How to Code Tools for Your Classroom	Engaged Students, Reduced DFW Rates	The Art of the Canvas Course
2:00-2:50pm	Generative AI for Lesson Planning	AI-Assisted Grading Practices	Cognitive Learning Redesign with Co-Regulation	Teaching Trauma	
<b>3:00-4:00pm Reception &amp; Raffle</b>					

**Room numbers for sessions will be printed on our program available only at the Reception Desk day-of.**

## 2025 ITL On Demand Resources

On Demand Resources allow individuals to share teaching artifacts from their courses. These teaching artifacts include assignments, in-class activities, lecture notes/slide decks, syllabi, or other supplementary teaching materials plus a statement that provides context on their use, including how it is aligned with the course's student learning outcomes and how it relates to the student's life beyond the course. On Demand Resources will be showcased on the Stearns Center's website in the weeks prior to the conference and through [MARS \(Mason's online repository program\)](#). We also created a Sway presentation to feature all our On Demand resources in one place:

**Check them out below!**

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/tS21WiXwfzQKxtbC?ref=Link&loc=play>

We look forward to having you at this year's ITL. Be sure to [register](#) by September 19, 2025, if you haven't already!

## Welcome 2025 ITL Session Presenters!

This is your one-stop destination for information about presenting at this year's hybrid ITL conference. Teaching Talk sessions will be held via Zoom on Thursday, September 25, 2025. Interactive Sessions will be held in-person in Dewberry Hall in Johnson Center on Friday, September 26, 2025. Below you will find details about:

- Key Dates
- Registration
- Program
- On Demand resources
- General session information
- Session Tips

If you still have questions, check out our ITL FAQ page or email our Conference Director, Crystal Anderson, [cander8@gmu.edu](mailto:cander8@gmu.edu).

## KEY DATES

- September 5: Deadline to [register](#)
- September 5: Deadline to [submit changes to the program](#)
- September 5: Deadline to [submit On Demand materials](#)
- September 25: Teaching Talk Sessions (virtual)
- September 26: Interactive Sessions (in person)

## REGISTRATION

Once you [register](#), you will be added to Canvas, which houses the virtual program (including Zoom links) and the in-person program. It also includes details, including abstracts and presenters, for all sessions. The program with room numbers for Interactive Sessions will be available at the registration desk on September 26.

Registration also allows you to sign up for a light breakfast, lunch, and a dessert reception.

***ALL PRESENTERS SHOULD REGISTER BY SEPTEMBER 5, 2025.***

## PROGRAM

Please see the [Conference Program webpage](#) for general information about session times. Detailed information about sessions will be available in the online program on Canvas. You will be added to Canvas once you register for the conference.

## ON DEMAND RESOURCES

Please check your session title for accuracy. Request for changes can be made using the [2025 ITL Presenter Changes](#) Form until September 5. (Please note: Edits will not be made in real-time. All requested edits will be made after September 5).

On Demand presenters will need submit their materials for the conference using the [ITL On Demand Content Submission Form](#). These materials will be uploaded to the University Libraries' MARS website and shared in the days leading up to the conference sessions.

***ALL ON DEMAND MATERIALS ARE DUE SEPTEMBER 5, 2025.***

## GENERAL SESSION INFORMATION

**Available technology (Interactive Sessions only).** All meeting rooms in the Johnson Center are equipped with PowerPoint presentation capabilities (projectors, etc.) and laptop hookups as well as microphones. We strongly encourage presenters to use the equipment in the rooms, as the settings of personal laptops may not be compatible with the equipment in the rooms.

**Room assignments (Interactive Sessions only).** Room assignments will only be available on the printed, one-page program available at the registration desk on September 26.

**Zoom links (Teaching Talk Sessions only).** You will receive the Zoom link for your session from the ITL Planning Committee via the Stearns Center email ([stearns@gmu.edu](mailto:stearns@gmu.edu)) in the days leading up to September 25. -In this email, we will also share the name and contact information for your session host/moderator(s).

**Accommodations.** You will be asked about any necessary accommodations during registration. If there is anything else you would like us to know, please reach out to the ITL Planning Committee at [stearns@gmu.edu](mailto:stearns@gmu.edu).

**Changes to the program.** We will not accept changes to the program, including changes to session times, after September 5. If you can no longer participate in the conference for any reason, please let us know as soon as possible. You can email the Stearns Center ([stearns@gmu.edu](mailto:stearns@gmu.edu)).

**Expected attendance.** It is impossible for us to say exactly how many attendees you will have at your session.

## SESSION TIPS

**Interactive Sessions.** Interactive Sessions allow presenters to actively engage participants as they share a teaching strategy, innovation, curricular initiative, technique, or tool. Facilitated by 1-3 presenters, these sessions provide takeaways that participants can use in their own teaching practice or curricular development.

Examples of interaction include:

- Pre-planned, guided discussion on a specific topic related to the session
- An activity where participants may practice a strategy or technique
- A brief writing activity where participants reflect on a topic related to the session
- An activity where participants collaborate to answer a question or apply a strategy or technique

**Teaching Talk Sessions.** Teaching Talks sessions allow individuals to share an aspect of their own teaching practice in a more concise format. In 10 minutes or less, participants present a teaching strategy, innovation, technique, or tool used in your course or SoTL research based on a course. Individual Teaching Talks will be grouped together in a 50-minute Teaching Talk Session around a common theme. Stearns Center staff or other session hosts will introduce presenters and manage the Q&A session. Please contact your assigned moderator for any issues beyond technology ones during your session on Thursday, September 25, 2025.

**On Demand Resources.** On Demand Resources allow individuals to share teaching artifacts from their courses. These teaching artifacts include assignments, in-class activities, lecture notes/slide decks, syllabi, or other supplementary teaching materials plus a statement that provides context on their use, including how it is aligned with the course's student learning outcomes and how it relates to the student's life beyond the course. On Demand Resources will be showcased on the Stearns Center's website in the weeks prior to the conference.

## 2025 ITL FAQ

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### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The 2025 Innovations in Teaching and Learning Conference will be hybrid, with Teaching Talks via Zoom on Thursday, September 25, 2024, and Interactive Sessions in the Johnson Center at George Mason University on Friday, September 26, 2024.

### ACCESSIBILITY

#### **How can I request accommodations?**

You can request accommodations as part of the registration process. Stearns Center staff will use the information provided to reach out to make arrangements. The Stearns Center is committed to providing equitable experiences for ITL participants and will try to accommodate access needs as best we can. Note: It can take 48-72 hours to process requests. Email [stearns@gmu.edu](mailto:stearns@gmu.edu) if you have additional accommodation requests or questions with the subject line "2025 ITL Accommodations Request."

### PARKING

Mason Pond is the closest visitor parking deck to the Johnson Center. For more information, please visit the GMU Parking website [here](#).

### ATTENDEES

#### **How do I access the online Zoom sessions?**

For the Thursday Teaching Talks sessions, you can access the Zoom link in Canvas. If you are affiliated with George Mason, information about setting up your Zoom account can be found at <https://its.gmu.edu/>. If you are not affiliated with George Mason, you will need to download/access the Zoom app. ITS (703-993-8870; [support@gmu.edu](mailto:support@gmu.edu)) can help you with general Zoom access questions. **NOTE:** *Only Teaching Talks sessions are presented through Zoom on Thursday, September 25, 2025.*

## **What opportunities are there to connect beyond the conference?**

We encourage participants to post on X (formerly Twitter) by tagging us @StearnsCenter and using #MasonITL. You may also continue learning about teaching strategies and connecting with fellow educators through [Stearns Center professional development opportunities](#).

## **How can I report a Code of Conduct violation or express any Code of Conduct Concerns?**

Please alert the online session host or in-person presenter about any incident or issue happening during a session. If you are in a breakout group, click on the “Ask for Help” button on the Zoom tool bar. On Friday, September 26, report any concerns to the session host or the ITL registration desk, which will be continuously staffed.

### TECHNOLOGY

**Having trouble accessing Zoom?** If you have trouble accessing Zoom, please restart your computer and make sure you have the latest version on your device. Please visit [its.gmu.edu](https://its.gmu.edu) for additional Zoom set up information or call ITS at 703-993-8870 for Zoom issues.

## **What do I do if an online session ends unexpectedly?**

In some rare situations, we may have to end a session early or restart a session or there may be a technical delay launching the session. If this happens, we plan to relaunch the session as quickly as we can. Please retry the original Zoom link in Sched a few minutes after the disconnection. **NOTE:** *If this occurs with less than 30 minutes remaining in a 50-minute session, we plan to end the session at that time and try to get supplementary materials posted for the session after the conference. Thank you for understanding.*

## **Sometimes there are problems with hybrid events—what should I do when [X] happens?**

If you are having difficulty using Canvas to access Zoom links, finding a session, or connecting with Zoom, please contact Stearns Center staff at [stearns@gmu.edu](mailto:stearns@gmu.edu).

## **Will Teaching Talk sessions be recorded?**

Teaching Talks sessions will not be recorded.

### CONFERENCE POLICIES

## **Code of Conduct**

The Innovations in Teaching & Learning conference is an annual event for George Mason University instructors, GTAs, administrators, staff, and our local community members to forge a sense of community around teaching and learning. All presenters, sponsors, attendees, and volunteers are required to follow our Code of Conduct. The ITL conference planning team will enforce this code throughout the event.

Our goal is to create a space where everyone feels welcome to participate, engage in conversation, and ask questions. We ask that all participants help us to create safe and positive experiences for everyone. ITL is committed to providing a harassment-free environment for everyone and will not tolerate harassment of any participant, attendee, guest, or volunteer, in any form. Sexual misconduct and discriminatory conduct (language, imagery) are not appropriate at any time during the conference (e.g. on screen, in public or private chat; in Q&A, during presentations, or in breakout sessions; on social media platforms or online media).

Expected behavior:

- All participants, attendees, and ITL staff/volunteers are treated with respect and consideration. We value diverse thoughts and opinions.
- Please be respectful, considerate, and try to collaborate during conflict.
- Remember to critique ideas rather than individuals.
- Please use preferred pronouns.
- Respect the rules and policies of this conference and various systems (i.e., Zoom, Canvas), in main meeting rooms, as well as in breakout rooms or social gatherings/postings.

Unacceptable behavior: Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to, inappropriate verbal/written comments related to gender, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, religion, or national origin; inappropriate use of nudity and/or sexual images and links on screen, in chats, or in live Q&A:

- Personal attacks directed toward presenters, attendees, sponsor representatives, ITL staff/volunteers, and any University staff that provide support to the conference.
- Discriminatory, demeaning or harassing actions/words.
- Disruption of presenter, attendee, or session host talk/leadership during the session or social events

Consequences and reporting unacceptable behavior: Anyone requested to stop unacceptable behavior is expected to comply immediately. ITL staff/volunteers may take appropriate action, including immediate removal from the session and/or the conference for any remaining sessions. ITL reserves the right to prohibit any attendance at any future conference or related event. Individuals are subject to consequences set forth by [George Mason University](#).

If you experience or witness unacceptable behavior, please notify an ITL staff member or volunteer immediately. ITL staff will be listed in the Canvas program under People.

### **How does Zoom protect my data?**

Zoom is committed to protecting your personal data. We use reasonable and appropriate technical and organizational measures to protect personal data from loss, misuse and unauthorized access, disclosure, alteration and destruction, taking into due account the risks involved in the processing and the nature of the personal data. For additional information, view Zoom's full [privacy statement](#).

**For all other questions during the conference please contact the Stearns Center ([stearns@gmu.edu](mailto:stearns@gmu.edu)) on September 25 and visit the ITL registration desk in front of Dewberry Hall on September 26.**