Requirements for Levels of Participation in CIRTL

While informal participation in CIRTL events is welcome, graduate students and postdocs may also undertake more formal participation at three different levels. Please note that the names of these levels are currently under consideration for revision at CIRTL Central.

• Associate
• Practitioner
• Scholar

The following defines the requirements that need to be achieved for each level of participation. Participants may request a letter detailing their achievements after completion of these requirements.

Associate

To be designated a CIRTL Associate, you must participate in five (5) CIRTL events. Each on-campus CIRTL event will be designated as fulfilling one or more of the three CIRTL core ideas: “learning communities,” “evidence-based teaching” (called Teaching-As-Research on the CIRTL website) or “learning through diversity.” You must participate in at least one matching event for each core idea. More detail on each core idea can be found at http://www.cirtl.net/CoreIdeas.

Instead of participating in five (5) on-campus events, Associates may:
• Substitute one or two of the on-campus events with an online event from the CIRTL network. Most online courses have no designation that matches the core ideas, and so do not count toward that requirement, but can serve as electives.
• Participate in three (3) on-campus events and a longer online module or course offered at CIRTL.net. Approval for this substitution should be obtained in advance from the UMass CIRTL co-leaders, Tilman Wolf and Beth Jakob (email cirtl@psych.umass.edu).
• Replace a CIRTL event with an appropriate on-campus non-CIRTL event. Approval for this substitution must also be obtained in advance by the co-leaders.

There are no time constraints for completing these requirements; they may be completed in a single semester or spread over years. Students are responsible for keeping track of their own participation in CIRTL events and for notifying the co-leaders when they have completed the mandatory five events.
Practitioner

To be designated a CIRTL Practitioner, you must:

- Complete all requirements for Associate level participation
- Complete an evidence-based teaching project. An evidence-based project requires demonstrating familiarity with current literature on the topic of the project, designing a new approach, overseeing the implementation of the approach, and assessing the result of the approach. Projects can be quite small scale, such as developing a new way to teach a particular concept, designing an effective writing assignment, etc. Practitioners may carry out projects in classes that they themselves teach, or may partner with an instructor.
- Participate in a semester-long 2-credit seminar run by one of the faculty co-leaders in which Practitioners develop and discuss their projects and read relevant literature.

As with the Associate level, there are no time constraints for completing these requirements. However, please communicate with co-leaders Wolf and Jakob early in the process.

Scholar

To be designated a CIRTL Scholar, you must:

- Complete all requirements for Practitioner level participation.
- Engage in a more elaborate evidence-based teaching project than that described for the Practitioners; it is allowable to start a project at the Practitioner level and then expand it for the Scholar level.
- Present your results to either the local CIRTL community, the online cross-campus network, or to a national forum such as a teaching conference.

CIRTL Scholars may apply for a small grant ($500-$1000) to aid in completing their projects.

Questions? Please email cirtl@psych.umass.edu.