Teacher Scholar Model Fall 2026 Implementation - FAQs DRAFT

The Teacher-Scholar Model embodies Learn by Doing by supporting faculty as active learners who integrate their research, scholarship, and creative work into teaching, creating a dynamic and student-centered learning environment. Beginning in Fall 2026 with semester conversion, Cal Poly will implement a new initiative that provides eligible tenure-line faculty with dedicated time to engage in the innovative and impactful scholarship that underpins the Teacher-Scholar Model.

The Teacher-Scholar Model program (TSM) is a professional development program that allocates three Weighted Teaching Units (WTUs) per academic year to each eligible tenure-line faculty member for assigned time dedicated to research, scholarship, and creative activities. Tenure-line faculty will continue to receive six WTUs per year for service activities (IRRs). The remaining 21 WTUs will be assigned by the Dean or designee, for a total of 30 WTUs per academic year for eligible tenure-line faculty on semesters. To be eligible for the TSM allocation, a faculty member must still be teaching at least six WTUs per year after the TSM assigned time is awarded.

Category	WTUs per year	Description
Dean Assigned	21 WTUs	Primarily Instruction
Service (IRR)	6 WTUs	Indirect Instruction
TSM	3 WTUs	Research, Scholarship & Creative Activities
Total	30 WTUs	Full-time Workload

Q: Are new tenure-track hires eligible for the TSM assigned time? Can they receive the 3 WTUs for TSM in addition to the assigned time granted to them for their first two years?
A: New tenure-track hires are not eligible during the first two years of employment as they are already receiving assigned time. They will be eligible for the 3 WTUs for the Teacher Scholar Model beginning in their third year.

Q: Are Cal Poly Solano faculty eligible for the TSM assigned time?
A: Yes.

Q: Are FERP faculty eligible for the TSM assigned time?
A: No, FERP faculty are not eligible for the TSM assigned time. Only full-time tenure-line faculty will be eligible for the TSM assigned time.

Q: Are faculty on a Permanent Reduction in Time Base (PRTB) eligible for TSM assigned time?
A: No, PRTB faculty are not eligible for the TSM assigned time. Only full-time tenure-line faculty will be eligible for the TSM assigned time.

Q: Are faculty members who are awarded a sabbatical or difference in pay leave eligible for the TSM assigned time?
A: No, faculty who are granted a sabbatical or difference in pay leave are not eligible during the academic year when that leave is taken.

Q: I'm a lecturer at Cal Poly. Will I be provided with the 3 WTUs of assigned time for the teacher-scholar model? If not, are there other opportunities for lecturer assigned time?
A: While lecturers are not eligible for the 3 WTUs for the Teacher Scholar Model, there are other opportunities to obtain assigned time, such as the Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activities (RSCA) Grant Program and the Teacher-Scholar Mini-Grant (TSMG), for which lecturers are eligible to apply.

Q: I have a grant that provides paid release time. Will I receive the 3 WTUs for the Teacher Scholar Model from the University on top of the grant-funded release I already have?

A: Yes, within the limitations mentioned above. To be eligible for the TSM units, a faculty member will need to still be teaching at least six (6) WTUs for the year, after the assigned time units are awarded.

Q: I have assigned time for other duties. Am I still eligible to receive 3 WTUs for the teacher-scholar model from the University on top of the release I already have?

A: Yes, within the limitations mentioned above. To be eligible for the TSM units, a faculty member will need to still be teaching at least six (6) WTUs for the year, after the assigned time units are awarded.

Q: Will librarians be eligible for assigned time for the TSM?

A: The Dean of the Library will make determinations based on individual work assignments.

Q: Is this program permanent, or will it be renewed yearly, or biannually? Is this program dependent on the health of the campus budget?

A: This is intended to be a long-term program. Any program may be affected by changes to the campus budget and priorities. This program will be reviewed annually based on its impact and financial sustainability.

Q: I really like to teach and don't want the 3 WTUs of TSM assigned time. Can I opt out?

A: An individual faculty member can opt out and not receive the 3 WTUs for the Teacher Scholar Model.

Q: Can I give my TSM assigned time to a junior faculty member who could really use it?

A: An individual faculty member cannot transfer the TSM assigned time to another faculty member.

Q: Can the 3 WTUs for the TSM be banked and used in a subsequent academic year?

A: No, the assigned time needs to be used during the academic year when it is made available. It cannot be banked for a subsequent academic year.

Q: Can I be paid for the TSM assigned time as extra compensation?

A: No, this is not allowed or consistent with the objectives of the Teacher Scholar Model.

Q: Will Retention, Promotion, and Tenure (RPT) be affected by the 3 WTUs for the Teacher Scholar Model?

A: RPT criteria for programs, departments, or colleges, may be updated to reflect Cal Poly's commitment to the Teacher Scholar Model. RPT criteria are established and updated through a shared governance process.

Q: Will Post Tenure Peer Review (PTPR) be affected by the 3 WTUs for the Teacher Scholar Model? *A: Yes, PTPR will be used to determine whether the faculty member will continue to receive the TSM units.*

Q: Do all 3 WTUs have to be taken in one semester?

A: Faculty may request to split the WTUs between semesters in the same academic year with the final determination being made based on program needs by the Dean or designee.

Q: Will the 3 WTUs be included in the term workload, or will they be treated like indirect instruction WTUs and therefore not included?

A: We are working out the details, but it will need to be reported in the same way other assigned time is reported.