

Parr Centre for Thriving

Driving innovation for student success

APPLICANT GUIDE 2024-25



Western  Student Experience

APPLICANT GUIDE: 2024-25

THE GRANT

The purpose of the **Parr Centre for Thriving** is to support **mental health and thriving** for undergraduate students (especially those in their first year) at Western University. The Parr Centre is named in honour of the Parr family, who donated the funds to support the Centre's work.

This year, the Parr Centre for Thriving will provide up to \$80,000 of funding to support innovative initiatives that will enhance student thriving at Western University. Projects may be one or two years in duration.

PURPOSE & PRIORITIES

The goal of the Parr Grant for Student Thriving is to fund innovative and collaborative projects that enhance undergraduate students' mental health, especially for first-year students. Priority funding will be given to projects that:

- Increase thriving and mental health among **undergraduate students** (especially those in their **first year** who are adjusting to university).
- Create and foster a community of practice through **active collaboration and/or information sharing** across university pillars, departments, and divisions.
- Centre student voices and incorporate **students as partners** throughout the project.
- Experiment with new approaches to supporting student thriving by piloting potentially **impactful, innovative** projects or initiatives.

Thriving students are 'fully engaged intellectually, socially, and emotionally in the college experience' (Schreiner, 2010, p. 4). Projects are eligible if they support one or more elements of Schreiner's model of student thriving:

- **Academic Determination:** Students are goal-directed, able to invest effort, and can regulate their own learning and use of time.
- **Engaged Learning:** Students are able to meaningfully engage with – and are energized by – what they are learning and continue learning beyond the classroom.
- **Diverse Citizenship:** Students want to have a positive impact in their community (and have the confidence to try), and value diversity within their community.
- **Social Connectedness:** Students have healthy relationships with others, on- and off-campus.
- **Positive Perspective:** Students are confident in their ability to achieve their goals and persist, even when faced with challenges, slow progress, or barriers.

If you'd like to discuss your ideas and their possible fit with the goals of this grant, please reach out to studentexperience@uwo.ca.

We encourage you to learn more about Western Student Experience's commitment to developing a [Thriving Campus](#). We also recommend the Western University Centre for Teaching and Learning's resource [Thriving in the Classroom](#) as a jumping off point for understanding Schreiner's work and applying it to student engagement and support.

ELIGIBILITY

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

You are eligible to apply for Parr Centre funds to support your project if you meet the following criteria:

- You are current faculty or staff (full-time or part-time) at Western University,
 - Affiliated University Colleges and postgraduate medical education programs for medical residents and fellows are not eligible.
- Past recipients are eligible to apply as long as the project is distinct from their previously funded project.
- Staff from the Office of the Vice Provost (Students) cannot be applicants or co-applicants on Parr Centre project proposals.

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for funding, a project must:

- Clearly focus on enhancing undergraduate student mental health and thriving at Western University.
- Be well-connected to Parr Centre goals of fostering active collaboration and communities of practice at Western University.
- Be student-centered and include students as active partners. At least 25% of the project budget must support students (through wages, participation incentives, honouraria, etc.).
- Be innovative. Projects should propose a novel approach, program or initiative that, based on knowledge of student needs and existing best practices, promises to enhance student thriving and/or mental health.

ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURES

- Funds from the Parr Centre for Student Thriving grant may be spent on:
 - Technology acquisition that enables the project's success.
 - Materials & campaigns to promote the project.
 - Project assessment & evaluation expenses (e.g., focus group or survey incentives).
 - Operating costs directly related to development and delivery of the program/service.
 - Outreach and recruitment activities.
- Funds **may not** be spent on:
 - Capital expenses, or maintenance/renovation of space.
 - Administration of the grant.
 - Professional development or staff training.
 - Computers, software, office space, or office supplies for Western University staff/faculty use.
 - Travel expenses (with some exceptions equity-enhancing support for student travel to program events, when relevant).
 - Bursaries/scholarship programs.

If you have any questions about your eligibility as an applicant, your proposed project's fit, or allowable expenditures under the grant, please reach out to studentexperience@uwo.ca.

EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

A committee will be convened to evaluate and select funded proposals. The committee will be made up of the following university stakeholders:

- Chair (non-voting): Vice-Provost (Students)
- Secretariat: Director, Assessment & Evaluation (or designate), Office of the Vice Provost (Students)
- USC President (or designate)
- Faculty/School Representative

- Student Facing Unit Representative
- Director of Strategic Communications & Marketing, Office of the Vice Provost (Students)

The committee will evaluate the proposals and distribute funding based on the following criteria:

- **Project rationale:** How evidence-based and logical is the project? The proposal should clearly identify a need or opportunity and propose a set of interventions that promise to address that need/opportunity to enhance student thriving. Project should be grounded in best practices & the relevant academic literature.
- **Innovation:** How innovative the project approach is, or the project's newness in meeting an emerging student need. Projects should be unique at Western University, and not only replicate/extend existing Western University services.
- **Collaboration across Western:** To what extent does the project encourage the development of a community of practice by bringing together multiple units and/or faculties from across the institution in the design, development, and implementation phases?
- **Involvement of Students as partners:** Degree to which students are involved in the design, development, delivery, and evaluation of the project.
- **Feasibility:** How likely is it that the project, as designed, can be completed with the resources and timeline identified?
- **Budget Justification:** Are proposed expenditures eligible and clearly connected to the goals of the project?
- **Assessment & Evaluation Plan:** Is success for this project well defined? Will the assessment and evaluation of the project provide actionable feedback during the life of the project? Will the assessment plan produce transferrable insights & lessons learned? How will the results of the project be shared?
- **Sustainability:** If the project is successful, is there a robust plan to continue the project after Parr Centre funding has been concluded?

TIMELINE

The timeline for the 2024-25 Parr Centre for Student Thriving grant application cycle is as follows:

March 1, 2024: Application released.

March & April, 2024: Information sessions & engagement with the Western community.

May 1, 2024 (11:59pm): Applications due.

May 20, 2024: Funding decisions shared with applicants

June 1, 2024: Funding begins

HOW TO APPLY:

To apply, download and complete the application form found at the [Parr Centre for Thriving website](#). The completed application form must be emailed to studentexperience@uwo.ca by 11:59pm on May 1, 2024.

We strongly encourage you to reach out to studentexperience@uwo.ca with any questions you have about the grant, the application process, or your eligibility. We will be happy to discuss your proposed project in advance of the submission deadline.