

Nursing and Engineering Innovation Center Affiliate Faculty Program Guidelines

❖ Purpose

The Affiliate Faculty Program invites faculty from the Elisabeth DeLuca School of Nursing and the College of Engineering to play a leadership role in advancing the Nursing and Engineering Innovation Center's mission. Affiliate Faculty will contribute in one or more of the following areas: interdisciplinary research, educational innovation, and mentorship, helping to drive forward initiatives that improve healthcare through engineering solutions. Affiliate Faculty will benefit from cross-disciplinary collaboration and opportunities for professional growth. The Affiliate Faculty program fosters an inclusive and dynamic community committed to solving complex healthcare challenges through innovation.

As an Affiliate Faculty member to the Nursing and Engineering Innovation Center, you will have the opportunity to:

1. Shape and lead programs that expand the Center's reach and impact.
2. Collaborate across disciplines to drive cutting-edge innovation development across at least one of the four pillars: Research, Education, Community Engagement, Technology Transfer.
3. Mentor and engage students in real-world interdisciplinary innovation projects.
4. Launch new initiatives that reflect your own ideas and interests.
5. Amplify the Innovation Center's visibility and open new pathways for funding, partnerships, and translation.
6. Connect with a dynamic community of faculty and partners committed to transforming healthcare through innovation.
7. Gain recognition and professional development through leadership, publications, and collaborative achievements.

❖ Structure

- **Appointment:** Initial appointment is 2 years, renewable based on engagement and contribution. Faculty may be nominated or apply through a brief letter of intent proposal outlining their intended contributions to the Nursing and Engineering Innovation Center.
- **Selection:** Open call, reviewed by a joint committee composed of representatives from both Nursing and Engineering. The committee evaluates candidates based on their alignment with the Innovation Center's mission, potential for interdisciplinary collaboration, and proposed contributions to Center initiatives.
- **Governance:** Affiliates convene up to twice per semester with Center leadership to align strategic priorities, share progress on initiatives and foster cross-disciplinary collaboration. These meetings serve as a forum for feedback, coordination, and identifying opportunities for collective impact.

❖ Eligibility

We welcome applications from faculty who:

- Open to all faculty with a primary appointment in the College of Engineering or the Elisabeth DeLuca School of Nursing, including adjunct, tenure-track, clinical, and in-residence faculty.
- Demonstrate interest or expertise in healthcare innovation, interdisciplinary research, interdisciplinary practice, entrepreneurship, or education.
- Demonstrate interest or expertise in healthcare innovation, interdisciplinary research, interdisciplinary practice, entrepreneurship, or education.
- Are enthusiastic to contribute to Center activities such as mentoring students, leading workshops, participating in collaborative research, and advancing interdisciplinary initiatives.
- Faculty from other UConn schools/colleges may also be considered on a case-by-case basis if their work aligns with the Center's mission.

❖ Roles & Responsibilities

Affiliate Faculty will have the freedom to choose how they engage with the Center.

Opportunities include (but are not limited to):

- **Program Leadership:** Lead or co-lead an Innovation Center initiative (e.g., Senior Design, student fellowships, workshops, new or existing programming).
- **New Initiatives:** Propose and launch new programs or initiatives that align with the Center's mission, with autonomy to design and direct them. Faculty are encouraged to integrate both nursing and engineering perspectives to foster interdisciplinary innovation.
- **Collaboration & Funding:**
 - Identify and pursue joint grant applications.
 - Develop philanthropic partnerships.
 - Build revenue-generating programs with the Center. Faculty may receive guidance and support from the Innovation Center Co-Directors in identifying funding opportunities and building collaborative proposals, in partnership with the UConn Foundation development teams designated to both engineering and nursing.
- **Student Engagement:** Mentor students on interdisciplinary projects and technical/clinical research. Faculty may engage with students through formal mentorship, project advising, or experiential learning opportunities.
- **Commercialization:** Support translational research, industry partnerships, and entrepreneurship. Faculty may collaborate with the Innovation Center to explore pathways for technology transfer, prototyping, and startup development.
- **Outreach:** Serve as a liaison to your home department and help expand the Center's visibility. This includes promoting Innovation Center initiatives, recruiting collaborators, and representing the Center in departmental and/or external settings.
- **Academic Contribution:** Participate in Innovation Center committees (education, research, technology transfer, events, collaborations), contribute to publications, lead or co-lead workshops, and offer guest lectures or interdisciplinary courses. Faculty may also engage in short-term roles such as proposal reviews or event participation.

❖ **Governance & Oversight**

- Affiliates report to the Center Co-Directors.
- Affiliates convene up to twice a semester with Center leadership and other affiliate faculty to align goals and review progress.
- Meetings may include updates on Center initiatives, opportunities for collaboration, strategic planning, and sharing of best practices across disciplines.
- Affiliate Faculty contributions and engagement will be reviewed annually to inform continued participation, renewal, and recognition.
- The Center Co-Directors provide guidance and support to help Affiliates align their efforts with the Center's mission and strategic priorities.

❖ **Recognition & Incentives**

Affiliate faculty will gain:

- **Title & Visibility:** Recognition as Affiliate Faculty, The Nursing and Engineering Innovation Center, featured on the Center's website, reports, and materials. This designation may also be used in professional bios and grant applications to highlight interdisciplinary engagement.
- **Career Advancement:** Letters of recognition for annual review and promotion consideration. These letters will detail contributions to the Innovation Center initiatives, leadership roles, and collaborative impact.
- **Access to Resources:** Priority access to the Innovation Center resources, including pilot funding, labs, and students (subject to availability). Affiliates may also receive support in identifying internal and external funding opportunities.
- **Collaboration Opportunities:**
 - Enhanced competitiveness in joint/interdisciplinary grants.
 - Access to translational and industry partnerships.
 - Connections to philanthropic and commercialization partners. The Innovation Center may assist in matchmaking and proposal development to support these collaborations.
- **Autonomy & Leadership:** Freedom to design and lead initiatives that align with your vision. Affiliates are encouraged to pursue innovative ideas that reflect both professional interests and the Innovation Center priorities.

- **Network Expansion:** Engagement with other Affiliates to develop interdisciplinary collaborations. Regular meetings and events will foster relationship-building and idea exchange across nursing and engineering.
- **Student Engagement:** Priority access to fellows, project teams, and innovation programs. Affiliates may also co-develop student opportunities such as internships, capstone projects, and research assistantships.

❖ **Evaluation & Renewal**

- **Annual Report:** Affiliates submit a yearly summary of contributions (program leadership, research, grants, teaching, mentoring, student engagement, commercialization activity, or new initiatives launched). Reports may also include collaborative efforts, outreach activities, and participation in Center committees or events.
- **Renewal Criteria:** Appointment renewal is based on impact, engagement, and initiative. Consideration will be given to the quality and relevance of contributions, alignment with the Center's mission, and engagement in interdisciplinary collaboration.

Review Process: The Center Co-Directors will review annual reports and provide feedback. Renewal decisions will be communicated prior to the end of the appointment term, with opportunities for discussion and future planning.

❖ **How to Apply**

To apply, please submit a brief statement of interest and your CV to Leila.Daneshmandi@uconn.edu and Tiffany.Kelley@uconn.edu by December 1st, 2025.

Your statement should include:

- Your interest in joining the Nursing and Engineering Innovation Center Affiliate Faculty Program.
- Your relevant expertise and experience.
- The areas you would like to lead, co-lead, or contribute to within the Center.
- Any initial ideas for initiatives, collaborations, or projects you may wish to pursue.
- How your work aligns with the Innovation Center's mission of advancing interdisciplinary innovation in healthcare.