

# WTCS Action Research Cycle

*Driving Innovation and Student Success Across Wisconsin's Technical Colleges.*

The **Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS)** uses an **Action Research Cycle** to explore new ideas, solve challenges, and improve student outcomes. This process is collaborative, data-driven, and focused on making a real difference in students' lives.

## Step 1: Gathering Ideas

Each year, the WTCS System Office invites college staff, faculty, students and partners to share ideas for research projects. Ideas are submitted through a simple online form.

## Step 2: Setting the Agenda

The System Office reviews all submissions and selects the most promising ideas based on:

- How well they align with statewide goals and priorities.
- The potential to improve student success.
- Whether the project is doable with available resources.
- If similar research has already been done

A shortlist of projects is chosen and shared on the WTCS Action Research website.

## Step 3: Conducting Research

The WTCS research team designs and carries out the selected projects.

They collect and analyze data to uncover insights that can lead to better programs, policies, and support for students.

## Step 4: Sharing What We Learn

Once the research is complete, the findings are shared with:

- WTCS colleges
- Faculty and staff
- Students and community partners
- State leaders and policymakers

This happens through **Action Research Briefs**, presentations, and professional development workshops.

## Why It Matters

This cycle helps WTCS colleges:

- Make informed decisions
- Improve access and opportunity for each learner
- Support student achievement and completion
- Shape policies that reflect real student needs

For questions about WTCS Action Research, please contact Dr. Hilary Barker ([hilary.barker@wtcsystem.edu](mailto:hilary.barker@wtcsystem.edu)).