

Project EMBER Institutional Application

Description:

Project EMBER (Eliminating Mathematics Barriers through Evidence-based Reforms) is a national initiative to improve student outcomes in introductory math courses. This application is to be one of eight research universities that will receive support to establish a cross-functional team, gather and analyze data, complete a departmental self-assessment, create an action plan, and begin to implement innovations.

Selected institutions will participate in an 15-month project (July 2026 – September 2027) and receive:

- guidance from experienced project consultants
- access to research-based tools and resources
- participation in a national learning community
- an \$8,000 participation award to support institutional engagement.

Application Timeline

- Call for Applications: April 1, 2026
- Application Deadline: April 30, 2026
- Institution Selection: June 1, 2026
- Project Start: July 2026

Section 1 — Institutional Information

Institution Name

City / State

Institution Type

Checkbox options:

- Public Research University
- Private Research University
- Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI)
- Historically Black College or University (HBCU)
- Other

Undergraduate Enrollment

Multiple choice:

- Under 5,000
- 5,000–10,000
- 10,000–20,000
- 20,000–35,000
- Over 35,000

Student Demographics - what percentage of students at your institution fall into each of these categories?

Black

Short answer

Hispanic / Latinx

Short answer

First-generation college students

Short answer

Pell Grant Recipients

Short answer

Section 2 — Institutional Contacts & Contexts

Institutional Project Lead (typically a Director of Introductory Mathematics, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Vice Chair of Undergraduate Studies, or lead Teaching-Focused Faculty member)

Name

Title

Department

Email

Teaching-Focused Faculty Lead (if Project Lead is a tenure-track faculty member)

Name

Title

Department

Email

Department Chair

Name

Department

Email

Dean, Vice-Provost, or Provost

A letter of support is required from an administrator.

Name

Title

Email

In our department, teaching focused faculty (typically with titles like Professor of the Practice, Teaching Faculty, or Teaching Professor) have access to the following rights:

Check-boxes:

- Generally have their own offices
- Can attend department meetings
- Can vote on all or nearly all matters
- Have job protections much like tenure
- Have opportunities for promotion (e.g. a tenure-like system)
- Are eligible for sabbatical leave

Section 3 — Current Reform Efforts

Which of the following reforms are currently implemented in your introductory mathematics program?

(Interpret these as best you can.)

Multiple Grid Choice:

Rows:

- Active learning strategies
- Math pathways (placing students into courses aligned with their intended field of study, including statistics and quantitative reasoning)
- Corequisite support courses (for students needing extra support)
- Course coordination across sections
- Technology-enabled curriculum
- Alternative grading structures (which allow for multiple attempts)

Columns:

- None
- Some implementation
- Significant implementation
- Full implementation

Describe any current or recent initiatives aimed at improving student success in introductory mathematics.

Paragraph response

Section 4 — Institutional Interest

Why is your institution interested in participating in Project EMBER? (200-300 words)

Paragraph response

What outcomes would your institution hope to achieve through participation in the project? (200-300 words)

Paragraph response

Section 5 — Data Capacity

Does your institution have access to institutional data related to introductory mathematics outcomes?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Are you able to analyze outcomes disaggregated by demographic groups?

- Yes
- No
- Partially

If you needed to analyze student success data, who would you go to for data analysis? Who would be the data lead for this work? Are they in the department or external

Paragraph answer

Section 6 — Institutional Commitment

Please confirm that your institution is willing to:

Checkbox list:

- Assemble a cross-functional institutional team
- Participate in project meetings and convenings
- Conduct a departmental self-assessment
- Analyze institutional data on introductory mathematics
- Develop an action plan for reform
- Participate in project reporting and dissemination

Section 7 — Upload Required Documents

Upload fields:

1. Letter of Support from Dean, Vice-Provost or Provost (link to sample)

2. Signed Letter of Commitment signed by a department leader and a teaching-focused faculty member
3. Optional supporting materials