University of Kentucky

2025 Outstanding Teaching Awards

The Outstanding Teaching awards were established by the Provost to reward and encourage excellence in teaching. There are two categories of faculty awards and a teaching assistant award. The following explains the types, number of awards, criteria, nomination procedure and timeline.

Eligibility: any full-time faculty member in any of the following title series: Regular, Special, Extension, Libraries, Clinical, Research, Lecturer.

Category One Faculty Award

Purpose: To recognize tenured or tenure-track faculty for outstanding teaching performance

Nature of the award: Cash award, appropriate plaque and other accolades

Number of Awards: Up to five awards

Criteria: Evidence of outstanding performance as a teacher, as documented by students and peers - cannot have received this award in the past 8 years

Category Two Faculty Award

Purpose: To recognize faculty appointed in non-tenure track title series for outstanding performance in the classroom, laboratory, or clinical settings

Nature of the award: Cash award, appropriate plaque and other accolades

Number of Awards: Up to five awards

Criteria: Evidence of outstanding performance in the classroom, laboratory, or clinical setting as documented by students and peers- cannot have received this award in the past 4 years

Teaching Assistant Award

Purpose: To recognize teaching assistants for outstanding performance in the classroom or laboratory

Eligibility: Teaching assistants with at least two semesters of teaching assistantship experience

Nature of the award: Cash award, appropriate plaque and other accolades

Number of Awards: Up to five awards

Criteria: Evidence of outstanding performance in the classroom and/or laboratory, as documented by faculty and students - recipients may receive this award one time.

2025 Outstanding Teaching Awards
Guidelines for Submitting Nominations

Step 1: *Nomination*

- The deadline for faculty, staff, and students to submit a one-page initial nomination letter (including self-nominations) to the faculty member's department chair or school director is 4:00 p.m. **Friday, February 14, 2025**. All submissions are to be made electronically.

Step 2: *Department Chair (or appropriate unit director) Submits the Formal Recommendation*

- A department chair or senior faculty member, familiar with the candidate's teaching performance, should prepare a two-page (maximum) formal recommendation. The formal recommendation should include specific examples of the accomplishments and qualities that make the nominee a model of teaching excellence.

- Submit materials **electronically** to the Office of the Associate Provost for Faculty Advancement via the Faculty Advancement Programs Application Portal. The deadline for chairs to submit these materials (in PDF format) is 4:00 p.m. **Friday, February 28, 2025**.

Step 3: *Selection of Finalists*

- The Selection Committee will review all nominations and select preliminary finalists in each category. The Office of the Associate Provost for Faculty Advancement will notify finalists on or before **Friday, March 14, 2025,** to request a complete teaching award packet.

Step 4: *Submission of Teaching Award Packets*

- Each preliminary finalist and their department chair or appropriate unit director (or designee) will be asked to prepare an **electronic** teaching award packet. Details about this packet will be sent to the preliminary finalists as explained above. The teaching award packets are to be submitted to the Faculty Advancement Programs Application Portal by 4:00 p.m. **Friday, March 28, 2025**.

Step 5: *Recommendation to Provost*

- Upon review of the teaching award packet, the Selection Committee will recommend recipients to the Provost by **Monday, April 7, 2025**.

Step 6: Award recipients will be notified by the Office for Faculty Advancement by 5:00 p.m. **Friday, April 11, 2025**.

The award recipients will be honored and receive their awards at the Faculty Awards Ceremony.   Details to come later.

2025 Outstanding Teaching Awards
Selection Criteria and Suggestions for Formal Recommendations

Formal recommendations are a critical part of the preliminary selection process for the Outstanding Teaching Awards.

Recommendations should include a compelling and detailed narrative about the nominated instructor's work as well as a holistic appraisal of their contribution as a leading educator.

Below are suggestions for what a successful letter might choose to address, although a letter does not need to address *all* these areas.

- evidence or examples of an effective and reflective teaching practice
- ability to engage and support the full range of students in their courses
- impact on student learning and student success
- impact on the department/school, college, institution, and/or discipline
- teaching experience, e.g., breadth, number, and types of classes taught
- innovative and creative approaches to curricular design and/or pedagogy
- commitment to inclusive, equitable, and diverse learning environments
- engagement with discipline-based teaching and learning issues
- engagement with research and scholarship on teaching and learning
- teaching-related leadership or mentorship roles
- accounts of teaching (e.g., from peer observation, student testimonials, or TCEs)
- peer recognition at the local, regional, or (inter)national level
- prior recognitions and awards related to teaching, mentoring, or advising