



Faculty Excellence Awards

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the College of Sciences and Mathematics's procedure for selecting faculty recipients of the annual Teaching Excellence, Scholarly Excellence, and Service Excellence awards.

Persons Affected

This policy applies to full-time faculty within the College of Sciences and Mathematics.

Definitions

Excellence Awards Program: opportunity to recognize individuals for their contributions to the university through teaching, scholarship, and service; administered by Academic Affairs.

Scholarly Excellence Award: Recognition of an individual based upon contributions to the body of knowledge of their discipline or of exceptional creative activity.

Service Excellence Award: Recognition of an individual based upon exceptional service provided to the department, college, and/or university.

Teaching Excellence Award: Recognition of an individual based upon knowledge of subject matter; quality of lectures and assignments; enthusiasm for teaching; interest in and availability to students; sensitivity to the learning environment; effectiveness as a teacher as assessed through student, peer and alumni evaluations; commitment to continuous improvement of their own classroom teaching; and contributions to the quality of teaching within the university through assistance and encouragement of other faculty.

Policy

The Division of Academic Affairs administers the annual faculty excellence award program and sets the criteria for the awards. The provost's office provides each recipient with a plaque and a stole.

Faculty Senate selects one non-tenure track recipient in each category and provides a cash award to each recipient; each college does not have a non-tenure track recipient.

Each college selects one tenure-track recipient in each category and provides a cash award. The cash award is paid as a stipend, and all compensation and payroll guidelines are followed in issuing the award.

Eligibility

Candidates for teaching and service excellence awards must be at lecturer, instructor, assistant, associate, or professor rank. Candidates for scholarly excellence be a tenured or tenure-track faculty at that assistant, associate, or professor rank.



All candidates must be employed full-time at the university for a minimum of three calendar years. Academic unit heads and other full-time directors are not eligible to apply. Faculty with reassigned time less than or equal to 50% of regular full-time duties are eligible to apply.

Past recipients of an excellence award are ineligible to be nominated for the same excellence award until three years have passed.

College Selection Criteria

A. Teaching Excellence

1. Student learning outcomes: Focus on evidence of student learning beyond simple course evaluations. Consider data on student performance, retention, graduation rates, and post-graduation success.
2. Teaching innovation and pedagogy: Recognize creativity and effectiveness in instructional methods, including online teaching, active learning strategies, and curriculum development.
3. Engagement and student support: Value commitment to creating a positive learning environment, fostering student engagement, and providing mentorship and support.
4. Impact on the larger community: Consider contributions to broader educational initiatives, such as interdisciplinary programs, faculty development, or community outreach through teaching.

B. Scholarly Excellence

1. Originality and significance of research: Focus on high-quality research that makes a significant contribution to the field, as evidenced by publications, citations, grants, and awards.
2. Interdisciplinarity and collaboration: Consider research that bridges disciplines, fosters collaboration, and addresses complex societal challenges.
3. Creative output and impact: For artistic or creative fields, prioritize work that demonstrates exceptional originality, technical skill, and impact on the artistic community or broader public.
4. Mentorship and training: Recognize faculty who nurture the next generation of researchers and creatives through effective mentorship and training programs.

C. Service Excellence

1. University, COSM, and departmental service: Recognize significant contributions to university governance, committees, service programs, or administrative roles.
2. Professional service: Value involvement in professional organizations, editorial boards, peer review, or mentoring of junior colleagues.
3. Public service: Consider contributions to the community through outreach programs, consulting, or expert advice to public bodies.



4. **Leadership and vision:** Recognize individuals who have taken initiative, demonstrated effective leadership, and contributed to positive change within the university or community.

College Selection Committees

Teaching Excellence: The Teaching Excellence Award Selection Committee is composed of three members: the award's most recent recipient and the previous two recipients. In the event a previous recipient declines or is unable to serve, another previous recipient of the award will be asked to serve.

Scholarly Excellence: The Scholarly Excellence Award Selection Committee is composed of three tenured faculty members. The Committee should be comprised of previous winners of the award or through nomination by the Dean.

Service Excellence: The Service Excellence Award Selection Committee is composed of academic unit heads within the College of Sciences and Mathematics.

Procedures

The College requires all nominations to be submitted by the CoSM academic unit head. For each award, all required materials are to be submitted via email to the CoSM Dean's office on or before the established deadline. All nomination letters are to be a maximum of two double-spaced pages in 12-point font with 1" margins.

A. Teaching Excellence Materials

1. Letter of nomination that addresses the criteria set forth by the provost's office and evaluates the candidate's teaching compared to other faculty members in the home department.
2. A PDF copy of the candidate's most recent Faculty Activity Report (FAR) – only include the section that relates to teaching activities.

B. Scholarly Excellence Materials

1. Letter of nomination that addresses the criteria set forth by the college and evaluates the candidate's scholarly activity as compared to other faculty members in the home department.
2. A PDF copy of the candidate's most recent Faculty Activity Report (FAR) – only include the section that relates to research activities.

C. Service Excellence Materials

1. Letter of nomination that addresses the criteria set forth by the college and evaluates the candidate's service compared to other faculty members in the home department. The nomination letter is to be a maximum of two double-spaced pages in 12-point font with 1" margins.



2. Additional letters of support are welcomed. Endorsements by multiple constituents will be weighted more heavily.

After nomination materials are received, the dean's office will convene each selection committee, providing each with copies of the respective nominees. The selection committee will notify the dean's office of the selected recipient.

Related Statutes or Regulations, Rules, Policies, or Standards

SFA HOP 03-308 University Awards Programs
SFA HOP 03-401 Additional Compensation
SFA HOP 05-104 Gifts, Prizes, and Awards

Responsible Executive

Dean, College of Sciences and Mathematics

Forms

None

Revision History

February 11, 2026
January 27, 2025 (original)