

TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD (TEA)

Procedures and Criteria for the Selection of a TEA Recipient

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PROCEDURES FOR THE SELECTION OF A TEA RECIPIENT

Final approval for the procedures rests with the Senate Awards and Honors Committee (SAHC)
Approved by SAHC: May 13, 2026

PURPOSE

In accordance with the Board policy, *Academic Excellence Awards (BRP-235.03)*, this award recognizes and celebrates faculty excellence in teaching at UFV, including Indigenized, inclusive, and innovative pedagogical practices that enhance student learning and success.

NUMBER OF AWARDS

One annual award; however, when the award process is completed and the selection committee has no name to recommend, the award is not given in that year.

ELIGIBLE UFV NOMINEES

Eligible nominees **currently** hold one of the following positions:

-  B Type faculty after probation period.
-  Sessional faculty with equivalent of two years of teaching (accumulation of 14 sections).
-  Continuing Education faculty with equivalent of two years of teaching (accumulation of 630 hours).

Note the following:

- a. Winners can be nominated again five years following receipt of the award.
- b. Nominees who are unsuccessful in their first year of nomination are considered as candidates for the teaching excellence award for a second year. Nominators are invited to:
 - Let the nomination stand and provide relevant updates to meet required documentation, or
 - Withdraw the nomination upon the nominee's request.

If the nominators are not available, the Secretariat office contacts nominees to determine if they would like to have their nomination stand for another year. Nominees who are unsuccessful in both first and second years of nomination will need to be re-nominated to be considered.

ELIGIBLE UFV NOMINATORS

-  B Type faculty after probation period
-  Sessional faculty with equivalent of two years of teaching (accumulation of 14 sections)
-  Continuing Education faculty with equivalent of two years of teaching (accumulation of 630 hours)
-  Staff*
-  Students enrolled in at least one UFV course
-  Alumni
-  University officers*

Nominations are not made by, or letters of support provided by, any member of the Teaching Excellence Award selection committee.

*For definitions, refer to the Senate Bylaws, p. 10.

ROLE OF SELECTION COMMITTEE

The UFV Teaching Excellence Award selection committee (TEASC) is a subcommittee of the Senate Teaching and Learning Committee (STLC) and is responsible for:

- a. Reviewing nominations for the award, selecting a successful candidate according to established criteria, announcing the recipient choice to STLC for information, sending recommended recipient information to the Senate Awards and Honours Committee (SAHC) and confirming award procedures and criteria have been followed.
- b. Making recommendations to SAHC for revisions to relevant policies, regulations, procedures, and criteria used in the selection of an award recipient

FORMATION OF SELECTION COMMITTEE - SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

1. The Senate Teaching and Learning Committee (STLC) will call, from its membership, volunteers for the Teaching Excellence Award selection committee.
2. The selection committee may also solicit volunteers from other areas of the university if there are insufficient volunteers from the standing committee, or if the committee wishes to bring in external expertise to assist the process. Normally, these external additions would have past experience serving on the adjudication committee or would bring recognized expertise relevant to the award.
3. If there is more than one volunteer for a position, the selection committee chair asks each person to submit a brief paragraph about their interest in participating. The selection committee decides who serves in this situation.

MEMBERSHIP COMPOSITION

Composition – seven members:

- a. Chair of the Senate Teaching and Learning Committee, who acts as chair
- b. Associate VP, Teaching and Learning or designate
- c. Three voting faculty members from either the group below:
 - Regular type B faculty any time after, their third year of consecutive service to UFV
 - Sessional instructors who have taught the cumulative equivalent of two full years of instruction at UFV
- d. One student

The chair of the award committee ensures the committee is filled, if possible, but proceeds with the adjudication process even if there are vacancies. Once the review process begins and a committee member resigns, they are not replaced.

TERMS OF OFFICE

Committee members serve for two years, with half the committee appointed on alternate years to ensure continuity.

COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Members of the committee agree to attend all meetings. Members may miss one meeting but provide the committee chair with notes to assist in the evaluation process. Any member who misses more than one meeting is withdrawn from the committee.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS - SEPTEMBER

1. Prior to the call, in April or May, nomination information from the previous year is available on the Secretariat web page.
2. In September, the call for nominations is initiated by the Secretariat. The deadline for nominations is Monday morning after the first Friday in December.
3. The UFV Secretariat Office publishes award information on their website and works with others to promote the awards.
4. The nomination deadline may be extended only when no nominations are received. The length of extension is determined by the selection committee Chair and Secretariat office.
5. The number of nominations received may be disclosed to individuals who inquire, such as nominators.

EVALUATION - JANUARY

1. Before the review process begins, the Secretariat provides conflict of interest (COI) information to the committee chair who distributes it to the committee. The Chair asks members to declare a COI once they know the names of nominees.
2. The Teaching Excellence Award selection committee meets to review the process, guidelines, evaluation system for criteria, and set the meeting schedule to meet deadlines for SAHC's February meeting and Senate's March meeting.
3. Selection committee members independently evaluate each nominee's package, following the procedures outlined in the [Criteria for the Selection of an Award Recipient](#).
4. The selection committee meets to make the final selection for an award recipient, following the procedures outlined in the [Criteria for the Selection of an Award Recipient](#).
5. The final decision of the committee is conducted with a *minimum of 51% committee membership* in attendance.
6. After the selection committee has made its final decision for the annual recipient, the chair of the selection committee collects all records used in the adjudication process, including individual adjudication sheets from all members of the committee. The Secretariat retains the records for a minimum of one year.

RECOMMENDATION TO SAHC & REVIEW - FEBRUARY

1. The chair or designate of the selection committee presents the recommendation for the annual recipient to the Senate Teaching and Learning Committee for information. The result is provided at an in-camera meeting of the committee, with the expectation this information remains confidential until a public announcement of the recipient is made.
2. The selection committee chair or designate is invited to attend the Senate Awards and Honors Committee's February meeting to present its recommendation for an award recipient, providing written documentation to summarize the process as follows:
 - a. Number of applications received/eligible.
 - b. Name and title of the successful candidate.
 - c. Parameters and details of the adjudication process in reaching decisions. This includes the final adjudication sheet completed by the committee, showing the scoring used in the selection of the award recipient to demonstrate how the winning candidate met the criteria.

- d. The letter of nomination, all letters of recommendation, and the curriculum vitae of the successful candidate.
- e. The names and titles of the members of the TEA selection committee.
3. The selection committee presents any recommendations for revisions to the process to SAHC.
4. SAHC reviews the documentation to ensure procedural and criteria requirements have been met in the selection of an annual recipient of the award, in order to inform its recommendation to Senate.
***Note:** SAHC does not approve the committee's selection, only ensures the criteria and procedures were followed.*
5. SAHC reviews and approves the selection committee's recommendations for revisions to the procedures and makes a recommendation to Senate for any proposed revisions to the criteria used in the selection of the annual recipient.

RECOMMENDATION TO SENATE - MARCH

1. SAHC recommends the annual recipient to Senate for approval. The SAHC chair or designate includes a brief summary about the chosen recipient, along with the recommended motion.
2. Once the award recipient is approved by Senate, the Secretariat prepares the congratulatory letter to the recipient and the letters to the unsuccessful candidates, for the VP, Academic's signature. The VP, Academic is the first to congratulate the winner. The Office of the VP, Academic notifies the Secretariat and President's office once the VP, Academic has had the opportunity to offer his congratulations to the winner.
3. The Secretariat prepares a congratulatory letter to the recipient for the President's signature. The President, on behalf of the Board, is the second to congratulate the winner.
4. Until such time as the VP, Academic and President have sent out letters to the winners and non-successful candidates, the decision remains confidential.
5. The Secretariat notifies the Community Engagement office so they can prepare publicity materials and announce the recipient. The award is presented at an appropriate university event.
6. The Secretariat notifies the award recipient of the options for the monetary award, and initiates the required paperwork.

NOMINATION MECHANISM

The nominator completes the nomination form, gather the supporting documents, and confidentially submits a complete electronic .pdf copy of the nomination package, with a table of contents, to the Secretariat at UFVSecretariat@ufv.ca.

NOMINATION PACKAGE

The nomination package consists of all of the following:

1. A letter of nomination outlining how the nominee meets the criteria for the Teaching Excellence award (maximum 1,000 words).
2. A nominator form, signed by the nominator, indicating their eligibility type.
3. Exactly five letters of support are included (500 words maximum) from any of these groups: faculty, staff, alumni, university officers, or students. The letters are based on knowledge of the nominee's work, which

reflects the criteria of the teaching excellence award, as outlined in the *Criteria for the Selection of Award Recipient*. Nominators do not submit a letter of support. They are asked to advise support letter writers to address one or more of the selection criteria and to provide them with the criteria.

4. A full and current curriculum vitae of the nominee.
5. The nominee's teaching philosophy (maximum 1,500 words).
6. The nominee's choice of two student class evaluations, preferably from two different courses, to be supplied by the nominee to the nominator, going back no further than four years from the year of the nomination. All written comments must be included.
7. A summary by the nominee that outlines how students' suggestions for improvements in the course evaluations have been addressed (500 words maximum).
8. The two official course outlines and matching syllabi for the student class evaluations submitted in criterion seven.
9. Any supporting documents provided for each of the criteria outlined in the [Criteria for the Selection of an Award Recipient](#), are presented in sections, and contain a brief description of the evidence provided.
10. A consent form signed by the nominee, agreeing to be nominated.

AWARD RECOGNITION

The award recipient will receive the award during an appropriate university event designated for award recipients. The award includes:

- A plaque with the award recipient's name and the year of the award
 - A framed certificate
 - \$1,000 to be used for professional development or research as determined by the award recipient, who the University Secretariat office contacts to discuss options.
- The award recipient collaborates with the Teaching and Learning Centre to arrange a presentation.

CRITERIA for the Selection of a TEA Recipient

Final approval for the UFV Faculty Excellence Awards Criteria rests with Senate, at the recommendation of the Senate Awards and Honors Committee.

Approved by SAHC: May 13, 2026

Approved by Senate: June 5, 2026

EVALUATION SCALE

Level	Description
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- | | |
|---|---|
| 5 | Significant evidence of meeting and exceeding the criteria and demonstrating excellence in all attributes |
| 4 | Strong evidence of meeting the criteria and demonstrating excellence in most attributes |
| 3 | Evidence of meeting the criteria and demonstrating excellence in some attributes |
| 2 | Evidence of meeting some of the attributes of the criteria but demonstrating little excellence |
| 1 | Little evidence of meeting the criteria and/or demonstrating excellence |
| 0 | Nominee does not display any of the attributes of this criteria |
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SCORING AND REACHING A DECISION

1. Scoring the Nominees

- The selection committee chair is responsible to lead, facilitate decisions, and help the committee agree on a process and declaration of a winner. The committee agrees upon the full scoring process (considering all elements noted below), prior to receiving nomination packages.
- Prior to finalizing a committee decision on an award winner, selection committee members independently evaluate each nominee's package of materials, based on the evidence provided. Using the scale above, members will produce a score for each award criterion, along with a brief written justification for the score.
- The Teaching Practice evaluation criterion is weighted three times that of each of the other three criteria, for a total of six.
- The committee meets to discuss the nominees and their independent evaluations for each candidate. During the discussion, committee members can make any adjustments they feel are required to create their own final score for each criterion.

2. Determining the Chosen Nominee

At this point, committee discusses the total weighted aggregate scores for each candidate. The total weighted aggregate score is calculated by taking the score assessed by each committee member per criterion, adding these together, and then calculating the weighting. The weighting is calculated by multiplying the score of the Teaching Practice evaluation criterion by three. Then, divide the total sum of all four criteria by the committee members who submitted scores. Then, the committee discusses whether the final scores represent to each committee member a close correlation with their view of each nominee's relative merits compared with all others.

3. Finalizing a Chosen Winner, Factoring in the Items Listed Below

- a. In using aggregate scores, if two nominees have an aggregate score that is deemed too similar (using a number as agreed upon by the selection committee), the committee may hold a discussion and/or rescore these two (or more) in an attempt to choose one.
- b. The committee may also hold further discussion about the scoring of top nominees without requiring the final selection to be based solely on the aggregate scoring.
- c. The committee normally attempts to reach a consensus on a winner but may agree to another approach such as holding a vote of committee members for their choice from among the top aggregate scores.
- d. The committee may choose to not select a winner if it concludes that none of the nominees reaches their chosen minimum level of meeting the selection criteria.
- e. At any point during the scoring process, it is possible that the committee may agree to rule out of contention one of the nominees because a package is incomplete; a nominee is deemed too weak in one criterion; or, that details provided in the nomination package would lead the committee to conclude that the nominee should not be selected based on the information provided.

4. Evaluation Criteria

Candidates are evaluated on the following criteria. These are baseline expectations which the award recipient must meet.

1. Teaching Practice
2. Curriculum Development
3. Scholarship
4. Service

1. Teaching Practice

a. Student Evaluations

- The nominee provides two student class evaluations, preferably from two different courses to a maximum of four courses, going back no further than four years from the year of nomination, that match the two course outlines and syllabi submitted in the nomination package, as outlined in the *Nomination Mechanism* (no edits to remove negative comments);

NOTE: exceptions may have to be made depending on the faculty or program. When nominees teach programs with only one course (but multiple sections), they should explain this context in the nomination package.

- Evaluations denote a high level of teaching competence.
- Provides a summary that outlines how student suggestions for improvements in course evaluations have been addressed (limit 500 words)
- Comments suggest the professor cares and makes extraordinary efforts to support deep learning and understanding

b. Learning Outcomes

The syllabi align assessments and learning activities to the learning outcomes, as set out in the UFV official course outline.

c. Student Engagement

- Evidence of student engagement in learning (such as active learning strategies, field experiences, service learning, learning communities, experiential learning opportunities and/or undergraduate research)
- Engages and supports students outside of class, i.e. liaison/advocacy, mentorship, or partnering with clubs or other departments such as Student Services, Academic Success Centre, Career Centre, etc.

d. Teaching Innovation

- Utilizes innovative pedagogical approaches, i.e., game-based learning
- Incorporates technological resources and supports to enhance the learning experience
- Demonstrates evidence of grounding practice in learning theories, such as active and engaged learning, using a variety of assessments, high impact practices, etc. game-based learning, problem-based learning, group-based strategies, Padlet, etc.
- Demonstrates place-based and land-based learning with a focus on decolonization, Indigenization, and reconciliation.
- Demonstrates effective pedagogies that illustrate the nuances and uniqueness of disciplines.

e. Teaching Philosophy

The teaching philosophy is clearly supported by the documents provided in the nomination package.

2. Curriculum Development

Evidence of three or more of the following:

Program/Course Design

- Demonstrates leadership in the development and revision of programs
- Develops new courses and continuously revises courses to improve engagement and learning
- Develops opportunities for collaboration and interdisciplinary learning
- Actively participates on curriculum and program planning committees
- Provides evidence of an indigenized curriculum
- Provides evidence of an internationalized curriculum and inclusive curriculum

3. Scholarship

Scholarship as it relates to improved teaching and learning:

- Evidence of the nominee's engagement in the scholarship of teaching and learning (e.g. SoTL publications, sabbatical projects related to teaching and learning, ROSA releases) and/or,
- Evidence of how the nominee's disciplinary research informs their teaching and learning
- Evidence of time spent learning from elders, knowledge givers, and in Indigenous community.

4. Service

Service as it relates to improved teaching and learning at UFV:

- Develops and conducts teaching workshops, seminars or other resources
- Mentors and collaborates with other faculty members to support the improvement of teaching practice
- Participates in educational planning and policy making
- Provides opportunities for students and faculty to participate in community-based learning activities
- Participates in committees related to teaching and learning
- Provides evidence that includes supporting Indigenous elders, knowledge givers, and community events.