

November 02, 2023

MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

RE: Nominations for 2023-24 Distinguished Teaching Awards

The Davis Division of the Academic Senate invites nominations for the 2023-24 Distinguished Teaching Awards. There are two categories: undergraduate teaching and graduate/professional teaching. All members of the Academic Senate who have not previously won the award are eligible. Previous nominees who did not receive the award may be nominated again. Nominees must have taught at UC Davis for at least four years to be eligible.

Nominations are sought from any member of the academic community: students, student organizations, faculty, staff, alumni, departments, or units. The nomination must clearly designate the appropriate category (undergraduate or graduate/professional) and identify excellence in a broad range of teaching activities and mentoring. Successful nominations provide the perspective of both students and faculty. The committee selects up to three awardees per category.

Characteristics of Excellence in Teaching

The award committee suggests that nomination letters consider the following characteristics of teaching (this list is not exhaustive):

- Class organization, clarity of lectures/presentations, and integration of lectures with coursework; objectives, philosophy, and principles associated with course content
- Command of subject matter and the ability to relate it to current events, historical precedents, and future research
- Ability to stimulate thought and involvement in the educational process; ability to teach students how to learn such that they develop sustained learning habits
- Significant contributions to improved and innovative teaching; use of innovative evaluation methods
- Advising and mentoring in terms of students' academic activities and career objectives; concern and responsiveness for students' welfare
- Accomplishments as measured by the success of students in subsequent academic and career activities

Nomination Package Requirements

Nomination packages must be submitted as a single PDF and include:

1. Nomination form (download [here](#))
2. Two nomination letters no longer than 1500 words each. Only two nomination letters will be accepted. If more than two are submitted, then any additional will be removed, and the nominator will be notified. This is to ensure equity across the review of the nomination packages:

- I. A letter from a student(s) or alumnus who has directly benefited from the nominee's teaching. This letter should make sure to reference excellence in terms of lecture/presentation, course organization, innovation, student advising, mentoring, etc. This letter may be written by one or more current or former students. Nominators are encouraged to consult with the nominee's Department Chair to discuss how to prepare the nomination packet, including eliciting a Faculty nomination letter (see section II below).
 - II. A letter from a faculty member documenting a long-term perspective of excellence in the nominee's contributions to teaching and mentoring. The faculty letter should include additional context about the nature of the classes that the nominee has taught (e.g., small seminar vs. large lecture), as well as some discussion about whether such classes are typical or atypical in the department. If appropriate, the letter can include information taken from prior department peer reviews (e.g., from a promotion) or numerical data or significant student comments from student evaluations. **NOTE:** Letters written for confidential personnel actions (current or previous actions) cannot be submitted as supporting documentation or nomination letters unless accompanied by the author's approval that their letter be used for this award nomination.
 - III. For the 2023-24 award nomination cycle, the committee will take into consideration any comments about challenges faced by the nominee during the pandemic.
3. The CV of the nominee, including a list of classes taught along with the approximate number enrolled.
 4. In addition, for graduate/professional teaching nominations: a list of students for whom the nominee has served as major professor.

The committee relies heavily on the nomination letters. Material outside of the four items listed above should not be submitted.

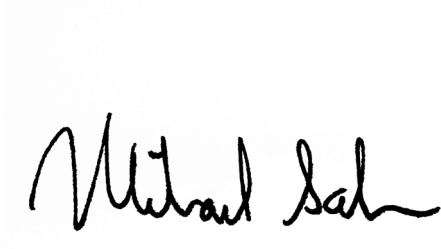
All nominations must be either student- or peer-submitted. Self-nominations will not be accepted.

Nominations submitted by members currently serving on the Distinguished Teaching Awards Committee will not be accepted.

Nominations for members currently serving on the Distinguished Teaching Awards Committee will not be considered.

The deadline for nominations is Thursday, December 14, 2023. Submit nomination packages as a single PDF file to Davis Division Policy Analyst Karleigh Shepard @ kshepard@ucdavis.edu. Any questions about how to prepare a strong nomination can also be addressed to Karleigh.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael Saler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Michael" is written with a large, prominent 'M' and 'i'. The last name "Saler" is written with a large 'S' and a cursive 'l'.

Michael Saler, Chair, Distinguished Teaching Awards Committee