
Dean's Awards for Excellence in Teaching (Faculty-Wide)

Deadline for Nominations: Last day of Winter term classes

[Online Nomination Package Submission](#)

2016-2017 Deadline: April 5, 2017

These awards have been created in order to celebrate and honour excellence in teaching in the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies and in so doing, to recognize quality teaching as one of the Faculty's reputational strengths, with the following specific objectives in view:

- To promote the adoption of excellent teaching practices that foster deep, engaged learning;
- To recognize and promote commitment to teaching in innovative and transformative ways to foster student success;
- To recognize and promote faculty members' commitment to York's instructional priorities in the areas of first year experience, Experiential Education and e-learning;
- To recognize and promote faculty members' commitment to Teaching, Learning and Student Success.

Eligibility:

One award will be offered in the following categories each year. All teaching faculty within the following categories are eligible:

- Tenured faculty with six years of teaching experience in LA&PS
- Contract faculty, adjunct faculty, or CLAs who have taught a minimum of 30 credits in LA&PS
- Teaching Assistants who have been a TA in courses equal to or exceeding 9.0 credits in LA&PS.

Award winners become eligible again after six years. Members of the Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Success and members of the Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence Adjudication Sub-Committee are not eligible to apply for this award during their year(s) of service. The Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Success looks forward to receiving nominations from all units.

Application Process:

Nomination packages of 25 pages or fewer, with the following components welcomed:

- 1) Nomination letter from the Department or a nominating colleague
- 2) Teaching Dossier (maximum 10 pages)
- 3) Student letters (maximum 5)

- 4) Other letters of support (maximum 3)
- 5) Summary of course evaluations

Below are some suggestions on what might be considered within these five categories:

1) Nomination letter:

Each year, Departments are encouraged to nominate candidates in each of the above categories as follows:

- Large departments: up to three nominations per category
- Medium departments: up to two nominations per category
- Small departments: up to one nomination per category.

The Department or a nominating colleague may submit a nomination letter, outlining the nominee's particular distinctions in teaching within the unit.

2).Teaching dossier (maximum 10 pages): (*the Teaching Commons at York offers support on how to prepare a Teaching Dossier*)

- To include a statement of teaching philosophy
- To provide succinct examples of the methods used to achieve teaching goals relevant to the award (examples may include retention rates, course outlines, syllabi, assignments, tests, learning outcomes, etc.).

3) Student letters of support (maximum of five):

Up to five student letters may be included. Students may write a letter of nomination or a letter of support. If more than five letters have been submitted, it is recommended that the nomination letter include a summary of the additional student letters.

Guidelines for students include:

- *In what capacity do you know this instructor (course, tutorial etc.)?*
- *Describe a significant learning experience you had with this instructor?*
- *What significance or impact has this learning had on you?*
- *How has this instructor guided, mentored or supported your learning?*
- *Are there any additional comments you would like to make about this instructor?*

4) Other letters of support (maximum of three):

To be collected by the candidate or the nominating unit and submitted with the nomination package. Letters of support may be of *any* of the following types:

a) Discipline Expert's Letter:

A discipline expert (from York or from outside York) would focus on teaching and learning issues, which can only be addressed from the perspective of the discipline. Ideally, this person would be familiar with the course outlines, required readings and assignments in courses taught by the nominee and could comment on how well the nominee addresses

unique challenges of the course.

b) Teaching Colleague:

A teaching colleague could focus on pedagogical practices of the nominee, their strengths as an educator, the clarity of learning objectives, pedagogical tools used, and the effectiveness and creativity of teaching methods and assessments.

c) Undergraduate Director, or Program Coordinator, or Chair

This referee could provide context for the nominee's teaching with the overall program curriculum.

d) Other Letters:

Other letters may be from teaching assistants or other colleagues who have worked with or are familiar with the nominee's work.

5) Summary of Course Evaluations

It is recommended that course evaluation results be presented in a consistent fashion, using the summary form provided by the Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Success, with an explanation for any missing course data.

Tenured faculty: would include summary data from the most recent six years of teaching, indicating the standard teaching load in the unit.

Contract faculty: would include summary data for the most recent courses totaling 30 credits taught in LA&PS.

Teaching Assistants: would include summary data, if available, for courses equaling a minimum of 9 credits taught in LA&PS.

Criteria:

Below are the key principles on which we assess the strengths of nominations. It is not an exhaustive list and nominees may wish to include additional relevant elements in their file. The Adjudication Sub-Committee will also weigh these criteria differently, as appropriate, to the different categories: tenure-stream, contract and teaching assistant categories.

- i. Evidence of deep and sustained student learning;
- ii. Evidence of support for student growth and development;
- iii. Clear learning objectives and priorities, appropriately aligned with teaching methods, assessments and assignments;
- iv. Engagement with and contributions to scholarship and/or a community of practice in the field of teaching and learning;
- v. Evidence of contributions to curricular development and/or leadership in teaching.

Adjudication Process:

The Adjudication Sub-Committee is appointed by the Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Success, and consists of faculty members who have distinguished themselves in teaching, to include:

- One YUFA colleague from the humanities
- One YUFA colleague from the social sciences
- One YUFA colleague from professional studies
- One contract faculty member
- One undergraduate student representative recommended by the LA&PS Student Council.
- One Teaching Assistant
- One *ex-officio* representative from the Committee on Teaching, Learning and Student Success who will chair the Sub-Committee and report on the process of deliberation.

The Sub-Committee will review the nominations and recommend candidates to the Dean. The Sub-Committee may declare a failed process if its members judge that the nomination files in a category do not satisfy the criteria for the award. The Sub-Committee also reserves the right, in exceptional circumstances, to carry the nominations forward to a subsequent year. The Sub-Committee may also notify the unit Chair of nominations it judges to be ideal candidates for the University-wide teaching award and for other external awards to encourage wider recognition of the teaching excellence.

Timelines

Last day of Winter term classes – deadline for submission of nominations

May/June – adjudication Sub-committee to make its recommendation to the Dean

September/October – recognition and awards announced

Recognition and Award

It is recommended that:

- Awards be presented at Faculty Council with a reception to recognize teaching award winners
- Award winner(s) receive funding to attend the STLHE conference, or an alternate teaching conference or to complete a teaching project
- The names of winners be published on the LA&PS Teaching and Learning website and on University webpages (e.g. Y-File, Teaching Commons).

