

2021 UT SYSTEM REGENTS' OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARDS (ROTA)

UTEP CALL FOR NOMINATIONS AND GUIDELINES

On behalf of UTEP, the Center for Faculty Leadership and Development is pleased to notify you of the Call for Nominations for the 2021 UT System *Regents' Outstanding Teaching Awards* (ROTA).

In 2020, the UT System awarded 27 awards to tenured/tenure-track faculty and contingent faculty from UT's 14 academic and health institutions. UTEP received one tenured/tenure-track and one non-tenure-track faculty award.

In 2021, at the request of the UT System Board of Regents, the Executive Vice Chancellors for Academic Affairs and Health Affairs have revised the ROTA program. Certain features of the ROTA program remain the same as in previous years, specifically the focus on recognizing outstanding faculty from both academic and health institutions and a monetary award for each recipient of \$25,000.

However, there are several important changes to note:

Timeline

The nomination timeline has been shortened, with announcement in February 2021.

Number of Nominees

- UTEP can submit one tenured/tenure-track and one non-tenure-track application.
- Up to 15 awards will be given across both academic and health institutions in the UT System.
- No individual UT System institution is guaranteed an award.

Eligibility Criteria

- As in the past, both tenured/tenure-track and non-tenure-track (contingent) candidates are eligible.
- Educators not only at the undergraduate level but also graduate level including faculty supporting professional degree programs (i.e., J.D., M.D., M.Arch, etc.), are now eligible. Previously, only undergraduate teaching was awarded.
- Faculty must not previously have received a ROTA award.

Nomination Materials and Selection Criteria

Candidate nomination will be a rigorous institution-based process and recommendation from the institution president is required for each of individual institution's two applicants.

The nomination materials have been reduced to 50 pages in terms of the written document.

Of these 50 pages, 20 pages are devoted to mandatory materials while the remaining 30 are at the discretion of the applicant.

In addition to the written portfolio, nominees are welcome, but not required, to include a supplemental section with videos, multimedia and/or digital content. The supplemental section does not count toward the 50-page limit, but nominees are asked to limit the length of video(s) submitted to 5-10 minutes in total.

UTEP Selection Process

Beginning in mid-February 2021, tenured faculty, tenure-track faculty, and non-tenure-track faculty may **self-nominate** through their chair or department head to their college or school in response to this announcement, and in accordance with the timeline established below.

From the pool of nominees, each college and school will subsequently recommend a maximum of one tenured/tenure-track and one non-tenure-track nomination for consideration. These will be reviewed by a University Selection Committee, which includes recent UT ROTA winners and representatives of the University Administration. The committee will recommend to the Provost two total UTEP nominations: one under each of the two categories. These final two nominations will continue to be refined for submission to UT System, which occurs in June 2021.

Note: This information is subject to be updated as new information becomes available. Updates are not anticipated to affect the essential structure, criteria, and requirements for awards.

2021 Cycle UTEP Nomination Process

1. Faculty Compile Draft Application Packets: February 15 – April 1, 2021

Tenured faculty, tenure-track faculty, and non-tenure-track faculty may **self-nominate** in response to this announcement. To do so, the faculty member must draft a packet sent to their Dean through their department chair or head.

Nomination Materials Required

The materials for each nominee must be no longer than 50 pages and compiled as a single PDF document bearing the nominee's last name and campus (e.g., Smith-UTARL.pdf). Note that nomination materials will not be returned.

As mentioned above, of these 50 pages, 20 pages are devoted to mandatory materials while the remaining 30 are at the discretion of the applicant. In addition to the written portfolio, nominees are welcome, but not required, to include a supplemental section with videos, multimedia and/or digital content. The supplemental section does not count toward the 50-page limit, but nominees should limit the length of video(s) submitted to 5-10 minutes in total.

The following application composition is provided to assist faculty as they put together the nomination packet. Additional evidence may be included at the nominee's discretion:

- Application packets will be no longer than 50 pages in length and must include the [ROTA Application Form](#) (that does not count toward the 50-page limit), which asks for the following:
 - Nominee's name and job title (ex: John Doe, Ph.D., Associate Professor and University Distinguished Teacher Professor)
 - Department
 - Institution
 - Contact information, including mailing address, phone number, and email address.
 - Demographic information
 - Gender
 - Race/Ethnicity

- **Table of Contents**
 - Including section and subsection headings with linked bookmarks
 - The Table of Contents must be paginated for ready reference.
- **Written Portfolio (Maximum 50 pages)**
Mandatory: The mandatory section of the written portfolio should not exceed 20 pages, and should include:
 - Curriculum Vitae
 - Teaching Philosophy
 - Letter of Support from the President of the institution (Only final selected institutional nominees will obtain the President’s letter of support)
 - Plan for disseminating methodologies/innovations (i.e., publications, presentations, teacher training and other professional development events, etc.)
 - Letters of Support from College Dean, Peer Faculty, and Former Students (Only College-level selected nominees will obtain their Dean’s letter of support)

Discretionary (Optional but strongly recommended): The remaining pages of the written portfolio are available at the nominee’s discretion and could include student evaluations (written comments and/or numerical section), evidence of the effectiveness of methodologies/innovations developed (prior to or during the pandemic), and other materials.
- **Supplemental (Optional but strongly recommended; this supplemental section does not count toward the 50-page limit):** The supplemental section is in addition to the written portion. While it is not required, the supplemental section may be used by the selection committee to make decisions. In the supplement section, applicants are welcome to include:
 - Video(s) – Limit of 5-10 minutes in total.
 - Multimedia
 - Digital – personal website, LinkedIn profile, etc.
 - Other forms of content
- Applications must demonstrate with quantitative and/or qualitative evidence (e.g., student recommendations, peer faculty recommendations, etc.) faculty’s effectiveness in terms of student success and learning.
- Applications must include a plan for disseminating methodologies and innovations to other faculty within their university and across UT System institutions (i.e., shows leadership and commitment).
- Please number all pages.

Selection Criteria

In preparing a nomination packet, keep in mind and pay careful attention to the ROTA selection criteria:

Award nominees must clearly demonstrate their commitment to teaching and a sustained capability to deliver excellence to the undergraduate learning experience. The review of portfolios is expected to evaluate teaching excellence using the following criteria:

- Focus on a commitment to teaching and delivering excellence to the learning experience through outstanding teaching including effectiveness, innovation, and creativity.

- Potential indicators of excellence in teaching include, but are not limited to, the demonstrated enhancement of student learning through:
 - Pursuing effectiveness, innovation, and creativity in the classroom.
 - Demonstrating the use of strategies that actively engage the learner.
 - Creating opportunities for experiential learning.
 - Using technology effectively.
 - Adapting teaching methods to improve teaching and learning.
 - Striving to learn and improve one’s own teaching.
 - Being a thought leader in the area of teaching and learning.
- For this 2021 ROTA year, UT System has expressed particularly interested in nominations of faculty who, in addition to the criteria above, developed innovations that were responsive to the needs of students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Examples to Proposed ROTA Selection Criteria
Compelling curriculum vitae that speaks highly of nominees’ outstanding teaching, curriculum quality and classroom expertise.
Clearly articulated teaching philosophy includes focus on student learning outcomes and course implementation clearly and compellingly aligned with those outcomes.
Provides clear and compelling evidence of incorporating faculty scholarship in course materials and content that together inspire students’ curiosity and creativity.
Provides clear and compelling commitment to and evidence of continuous improvement and innovation in the preparation of course materials, including use of technology.
Demonstrable plans and dissemination of methodologies and innovations to other faculty at UTEP and / or across UT System institutions (i.e., shows leadership and commitment).
Compelling recommendations from students, peer faculty and Dean that speak highly of nominees’ curriculum quality and classroom expertise.
Sustained high performance in student exit (end-of-course) evaluations for multiple undergraduate and/or graduate courses, at any undergraduate or graduate level; evidence to include high evaluation scores and trends.
Clear and compelling commitment to high quality undergraduate and/or graduate education, from participation in teacher training and/or academic teaching conferences.
Demonstrates a clear and compelling focus on undergraduate and/or graduate student engagement in the learning process through innovative and inclusive teaching techniques. Employs a variety of teaching tools and mediums in order to accommodate different learning styles.
(Optional) evidence of teaching awards received at department, college or university levels or elsewhere (professional discipline associations).
Clear and compelling discipline-related interaction with undergraduate and/or graduate students beyond the classroom, such as sponsorship of student organizations or scholastic fraternities, field experiences, and undergraduate research.

Additional extraordinary commitment to teaching including mentoring undergraduate and/or graduate students, service learning, engagement, advising, and high-quality investigative experiences.
Evidence of innovations developed and implemented that were responsive to the needs of students during the COVID-19 pandemic.
Demonstrable plans and dissemination of methodologies and innovations to other faculty at UTEP and/or across UT System institutions (i.e., shows leadership and commitment).

The nomination package must contain all parts (including support letters, with the exception of the letter from the President) and follow all known guidelines required by the UT-Regents ([see the UT ROTA 2021 website](#)).

Deadline for the submission of the nomination packet as a single PDF file to the Dean through department chair or head is April 1, 2021.

2. Review and Selection by Each College: April 1 through April 12, 2021

Each College will review the drafted nomination packets, choose representatives in each of the two categories (one tenured/tenure-track and one non-tenure-track), and provide their nominations to the Center for Faculty Leadership and Development (CFLD). This will help UTEP create a strong and academically diverse pool of drafted nominations.

- Letter of Support from the Dean will be added to the selected College nominees at this stage.

Deadline for Deans to submit the nomination packets in each of the two ROTA categories to the Center for Faculty Leadership and Development (CFLD) via OneDrive: April 12, 2021.

The Deans will submit nominations to a secure online server. Access to a unique OneDrive folder for each college will be established by the Center for Faculty Leadership and Development (CLFD). If you have any questions or issues with accessing or uploading a file, please contact CFLD's Program Coordinator, Ms. Karla Ramirez (ext. 8793 or kgramirez@utep.edu). Please note that once uploaded, you cannot make changes to the submitted files after the April 12 deadline as the packets will be forwarded for internal review.

3. Review and Screening by UTEP ROTA Selection Committee: April 14, 2021 – May 05, 2021.

The Center for Faculty Leadership and Development will convene and facilitate the University Selection Committee, a committee that includes recent UT ROTA winners and representatives of the University Administration. The Committee will recommend to the Provost's Office the top two nominees (one tenured/tenure-track, and one non-tenure-track faculty). The review process will run from April 14, 2021 – May 05, 2021. The Provost will make the final recommendation and inform the UTEP nominees of their selection by May 10, 2021.

4. Refinement Process: May 10, 2021 – June 08, 2021.

The two selected UTEP nominees will engage in a critical refinement process using peer review with administrators, fellow nominees, and previous UTEP UT ROTA winners. This refinement process will run from May 10, 2021 – June 08, 2021.

5. Presidential Review: Commences June 10, 2021

Submission of recommended nominations for Presidential review: June 10, 2021.

- Letter of Support from the President will be added to the final nomination packets.

6. UTEP ROTA Submission: By June 25, 2021

The Provost Office submits the nominations to the UT System prior to the UT System's specified date (June 30, 2021).

UT System Selection Process

- Up to 15 awards will be given across both academic and health institutions. The number of awards will be determined by the number applications, recommendations from the review committee, and other factors. **No institution is guaranteed an award.**
- After institutions submit nominees to UT System in late June 2021, the Offices of Academic Affairs and Health Affairs will appoint separate review committees. The committee appointed by Academic Affairs will read, review, and make recommendations on the nominees from UT academic institutions, and the Health Affairs' selection committee will read, review, and make recommendations on the nominees from UT health institutions. The recommendations of both committees will go forward to the Executive Vice Chancellors of Academic Affairs and Health Affairs, who will make the final selection. The EVCs for Academic Affairs and Health Affairs will also bring in the student voice to the selection process.
- UT System Timeline:
 - Call for Nominations: February
 - Institutional Applications Submitted to UT System: Wednesday, June 30, 2021
 - Notification to Recipients: September
 - Presentation: November BOR Meeting

Past UT ROTA Recipients

UTEP's 2020 UT Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award (ROTA) recipients:

- Jessica Slade, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Instruction, Teacher Education
- Chuan Xiao, Associate Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry

To see a list of our past winners, [CLICK HERE](#) and select UT El Paso.