

CAS Scholarship Excellence Award

The College of Arts & Sciences bestows its Research Excellence Award upon a faculty member of the college who demonstrates exceptional research or creative work.

Eligibility

- The nominee must be a member of the College of Arts & Sciences faculty (at the time of application);
- The work to be recognized in the award is to have been completed while a member of the College of Arts & Sciences faculty;
- The work to be recognized in the award is to have been completed within the past five (5 years (at the time of nomination).
- The work to be recognized has not already received significant Winthrop University recognition.¹

Award Criteria

Nominations should be based on outstanding achievement in scholarly activity.²

Outstanding achievement may be evidenced by such features as:

- Recognition of the work by the scholarly community of its discipline; e.g.,
 - Receipt of significant national or international award or significant regional awards;
 - Publication in a leading scholarly journal; publication of a significant book;
 - Support of significant external funding;
 - Prestigious invited presentations;
- Promise of the work for further achievement in the future;
- Capacity of the work for scholarly engagement in the community, region, or beyond;³
- The work's advancement of our understanding of an important question or issue.

¹ For instance, an individual might receive a Presidential Citation for winning a grant; but the work produced under the grant would remain eligible for this award. The selection committee may be generous in interpreting this criterion.

² As articulated by the College of Arts and Sciences' Statement, Scholarly Activity includes, but is not limited to, refereed and invited publications, invited and contributed presentations, outside funding for the pursuit of scholarly pursuits, exhibitions, inventions, patents, etc.

³ The College recognizes that some disciplines more readily or directly affect life in our communities, local and farther-flung. Thus, while a significant positive capacity for such influence may be counted in favor of a nominee's portfolio, the portfolios of nominees whose discipline is less directly linked with practical affairs should not be penalized because of it.

Nomination Process

Candidates for the award may be nominated by any member of the Winthrop University faculty, including the candidate him/herself. Nominations should be sent to the CAS Dean's Office; the nominee's home department chair should at the same time be informed of the nomination. Subsequent to nomination, the nominee will prepare and submit materials for review (see below). Once the nominees are known, the Dean will create a review committee. The review committee should contain at least one member from each general division:

- Humanities: English, History, Philosophy and Religious Studies, World Languages and Cultures
- STEM: Biology, Chemistry-Physics-Geology, Environmental Science, Human Nutrition, Mathematics
- Professions: Human Nutrition, Mass Communication, Social Work, Teacher Education
- Social Sciences: Environmental Studies, Geography, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology and Anthropology

All members of this committee should be tenured faculty in the College, and at least half of them should be full professors in the College.

Review Materials:

- Cover letter from nominee referencing selection criteria
- Nominee CV
- If desired any abstracts/publications/relevant scholarship evidence (18-24 months)
- Letter from internal source (could be department chair)
- Letter from external source
- Department chair approval form with signature

Notes on Review Materials:

- Review materials must be submitted electronically to the dean's office.
- The nominee should be mindful of differences in scholarship practices across academic disciplines and so should include or address in the cover letter the following:
 - how the submitted scholarship satisfies the several Award Criteria;
 - where the nominee's discipline accords greater or less significance to the various artifact kinds (essay, monograph, findings, exhibition, etc.), an indication of where the nominee's submissions fall within any such ranking.
- Similarly, those writing letters on behalf of the nominee should speak to the Award Criteria and should explain the particulars of the nominee's field of scholarship (e.g., significance of scholarship artifact), in order to aid in the well-informed review of the nominee's scholarship.