

Millikin University
Teaching Excellence Award Program

Description & Purpose

Millikin University has developed the Teaching Excellence Award to encourage and reward excellence in teaching and further promote student learning. The main goal of the Program is to celebrate innovative teaching that prepares students for professional success, democratic citizenship in a global environment, and a personal life of meaning and value.

The specific purpose of the Teaching Excellence Award Program is multifaceted and designed to:

- increase awareness of what constitutes teaching excellence at Millikin University;
- encourage faculty to strive to meet the standards of excellence;
- reward faculty who exemplify teaching excellence.

Eligibility

All who have completed a minimum of three years of full-time faculty service at Millikin University are eligible to apply for the Teaching Excellence Award. Previous award recipients are eligible to apply after a minimum of three years following their previous award.

Deadline & Application Process

Teaching Excellence Award applications are **due electronically by January 24** (the first Friday of the Spring Semester). It is required that the narrative and all supporting materials be submitted **via Interfolio** for review by the Council on Scholarship and Faculty Development.

Defining Teaching Excellence

Policies and Procedures states that excellence in teaching is a central goal of all faculty and administrative efforts. Specifically, it describes excellence in teaching as “rigorous both in presentation and in evaluation of student learning. It instills in students a passion for learning, challenges each student to move significantly beyond his or her current level, and encourages students to wrestle with salient problems and issues. It values active and independent modes of learning and encourages students to integrate knowledge between courses and to connect learning to practices and problems in society.” (*P&P* 4.10) In addition to the classroom setting, teaching excellence can also include advising, supervising laboratories, directing honors projects/undergraduate research, and/or supervising directed and independent studies.

I. Narrative

To apply for the Teaching Excellence Award, faculty members prepare a narrative of **five single-spaced pages or less** (12-point type) addressing how their last 3-5 years of teaching have met the following criteria:

1. Teaching Philosophy:

A personal statement that expresses your values and beliefs about teaching.

2. Innovation in pedagogy:

Demonstrated success improving teaching and learning, curriculum and course design, new approaches to course delivery, innovative learning opportunities for students, and/or advanced technology applications, including: the infusion of multicultural/global/international content in curriculum; the inclusion of experiential learning activities designed to promote greater awareness of multicultural/global issues and increased multicultural understandings, and class trips, immersions, or study abroad.

3. Evidence of student learning:

Include examples of student achievement relative to coursework, research projects, artistic works, advising initiatives, conference participation, exhibits, performances, project mentoring, etc. May address various modes of student learning including, but not limited to:

Experiential learning: Activities that focus on learning through actively experiencing work within the discipline (e.g., giving a speech, writing a poem, conducting an experiment, throwing a pot, conversing in a foreign language, etc.) as part of the theory and practice scenario.

Collaborative learning: Learning that requires cooperation, teamwork, and/or leadership development, which could occur through classroom exercises, course projects, or internships and independent studies that place students in collaborative relationships with their peers, or within professional or organizational settings. Includes evidence of research and artistic works with students: conference participation, joint exhibits, performances and/or project mentoring.

Integrated learning: Learning that assimilates content across subject areas and disciplines and/or majors. May take place in classroom exercises, course projects, or through academic advising initiatives.

Performance learning: Learning that “provides opportunities to experience real-world risks and rewards while combining theory and practice with imagination and innovation.” (*P&P* 1.1.1)

II. Teaching roles and responsibilities

Provide a summary of courses taught over the past three years as well as academic advising achievements or outcomes.

III. Supporting documentation

Examples could include: syllabi, assignments, student outcomes (presentations, essays, JMS projects, exhibitions, etc.), course evaluations, etc. (All submitted materials should be referenced in the narrative to support your application).

IV. Updated CV

V. Letters of recommendation

1. Letter from chair, director, or dean (one letter)
2. Letter(s) from colleagues familiar (class observation, co-teaching, collaborative projects, etc.) with the applicant's teaching (up to 3 letters)
3. Letter(s) from current or former students (up to 3 letters)

Evaluation of Application

The Council on Scholarship and Faculty Development (CSFD), as a faculty body constituted specifically to support faculty success and excellence in teaching, scholarship or artistic achievement, and service, will review all applications using the Teaching Excellence Award rubric. After evaluating the quality of each application, the CSFD makes its recommendations to the Provost for recipient(s).

Award Winner(s)

The Provost, in collaboration with the Vice President for Finance and Business Affairs, will determine the potential number of TEA awards to be issued on a yearly basis. The CSFD will select a commensurate number of award recipients assuming that an equal number of qualified applications are received. Recipients are awarded a \$3000 salary increase. Award winners will be included in the Honors Convocation program.

Obligations of TEA Recipients

TEA recipients become part of a distinguished group of teachers at Millikin University. During the year following receipt of the award, TEA winners will be asked to do a presentation on teaching, facilitate a related workshop, or actively mentor a junior colleague. TEA award recipients are lauded as outstanding faculty and teacher leaders in promoting continued quality and excellence in the academic community at Millikin by virtue of their superior teaching, which is the central function of Millikin.

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