2026-2027 ANNUAL CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
Academic Federation Award for
EXCELLENCE IN UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING

All members of the University community (students, faculty, staff, and alumni) are invited to nominate members of the Academic Federation for the Academic Federation Awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. Students are especially encouraged to submit nominations.

QUALIFICATIONS: Up to two awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching may be given annually to Academic Federation members for demonstrated teaching excellence at UC Davis.

The nominators should identify excellence in a broad range of undergraduate teaching/mentoring activities. The letters should provide a reasonably comprehensive account of the special qualities and accomplishments that warrant the candidate's consideration as an Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching candidate and may draw upon a wide range of comments. Previous committees on Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Awards have found the following characteristics to be important:

(Nominators should view this as a suggestive, rather than exhaustive, list.)

- Clear and organized lectures/presentations
- Command of the subject matter and the ability to relate the subject to current research, to historical precedents, and to future developments
- Innovation in curriculum and/or pedagogy
- Ability to stimulate thought and involvement in the educational process
- Advising and mentoring in terms of the academic activities, career objectives, and personal welfare of undergraduate students
- Ability to improve the undergraduate students' experience and help them succeed in subsequent academic and career activities by helping them discover how they learn and how to think critically

NOMINATIONS: Nominations must be in the form of a letter describing the attributes and accomplishments of the nominee. The letter should include specific examples related to the qualification criteria, but be no longer than three double-spaced typewritten pages. It should describe the characteristics that set the nominee apart from their colleagues as an excellent teacher. Self-nominations will not be accepted. 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.

Nominations must include:

- A completed nomination form: https://academicfederation.ucdavis.edu/grants-awards
- One letter of nomination
- Three to five letters of recommendation, at least one of which should be from an undergraduate student, one from a colleague and possibly the department chair
- Student evaluations from the instructor's three most recent undergraduate courses. These should include students' comments and compiled evaluation scores (evaluations may be obtained by contacting the nominee's department)

REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION: All nomination materials must be submitted and received as 1 PDF by the deadline. Incomplete nomination materials will not be reviewed or considered by the committee. It is the responsibility of the nominator to ensure the packet is complete. Submit nominations to the Academic Federation Awards inbox at afawards@ucdavis.edu.

DEADLINE: Thursday, December 10, 2026

Questions concerning nominations may be addressed to afawards@ucdavis.edu.