



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

UCF Faculty Award Categories and Criteria 2025

General Criteria for open nominee-based awards:

In order to be considered for any of the COM faculty award categories, applicants must have been in their role at the College of Medicine for at least one year. All nominees must have a university-based faculty appointment as salaried, non-salaried, or GME faculty, and may work full-time or part-time. **No faculty member may receive the same award more than once every three years.** If the applicant has previously won an award, they will need to provide evidence of new achievements to qualify for the same award again.

These specific awards are open to nominations from colleagues and chairs. *We no longer accept self-nominations.*

- The nominator must provide a brief description of why the nominee should be considered.
- The faculty development team will then reach out to the nominee with the award criteria.
- If the nominee wishes to accept the nomination, they must submit materials aligned with the award criteria.

The committee prefers narrative format for applications and discourages the extensive use of bullet points. All documentation related to award categories must be limited and follow the guidelines associated with each award. In cases where there are no qualified applicants, or an application does not address the selection criteria, an award may not be given. Award winners will be recognized at the 2025 COM Awards Ceremony in December. Questions? Contact madelynn.verkleeren@ucf.edu

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Early Career Investigator Award for Achievement in Research

The award will be given based on **evidence of growth and impact in research, leadership potential, scholarly contributions to a scientific field, and commitment to mentorship**. Each of bolded activities or areas will serve as the rubric for evaluating candidates for the award.

Candidates must be nominated by a colleague or supervisor.

Documentation requirements

- 1-2 page narrative using the following headings:
 - **Growth and impact in research:** demonstrate increased quality and quantity of research outputs, as well as recognition by the research community.
 - **Leadership potential in a scientific field:** describe examples of taking initiative in research projects, collaborations, and contributing to the strategic direction of a research group.
 - **Scholarly contributions to a scientific field:** describe contributions that advance knowledge in the field, such as innovative research methods, critical reviews, or theoretical advancements.
 - **Commitment to mentorship:** demonstrate commitment to fostering the next generation of researchers while enhancing the academic environment.
- Up to 20 pages of evidence that could include list of publications, citations, significant findings, books, book chapters, or patents, awards, grants received, speaking invitations at significant conferences, evidence of real-world applications of research, testimonials from colleagues, mentors or mentees, list of undergraduate or graduate student research projects and outputs, feedback from mentees, and/or peer recognition of mentorship efforts.

Researcher Career Achievement Award

The award will be given based on **evidence of impact at a national or international level, leadership in the field, significant scholarly contributions to a scientific field, and commitment to mentorship**. Each of bolded activities or areas will serve as the rubric for evaluating candidates for the award.

Candidates must be nominated by a colleague or supervisor.

Documentation requirements

- 1–2-page narrative using the following headings:
 - **National and/or international impact:** demonstrate how research has influenced the broader scientific community or had a significant societal impact across national or international boundaries.
 - **Leadership potential in a scientific field:** describe examples of guiding significant research initiatives that influence the direction of scientific inquiry in the field and foster an environment that promotes research excellence.
 - **Scholarly contributions to a scientific field:** describe groundbreaking research and continual contributions that have significantly advanced the state of knowledge in the nominee's field.
 - **Commitment to mentorship:** demonstrate long-standing commitment to fostering the next generation of researchers while enhancing the academic environment.
- Up to 20 pages of evidence that could include significant research findings adopted or utilized by other countries, international collaboration projects, policies influenced by your work, international awards, keynote speeches at international conferences, high citation metrics in global research publications, leading major research projects or programs, chairing significant scientific committees, holding editorial positions in prestigious academic journals, peer acknowledgment, such as being cited in other influential works, implementation of research outcomes by other significant entities, setting new directions for research in the field, professional achievements of mentees, leadership positions held by mentees, awards or recognitions received by mentees, letters from former mentees detailing the mentor's influence on their careers.

Meritorious Service Award

This award recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the college, the broader community, and the learners' community through sustained, impactful, and transformative service. This award celebrates excellence in institutional engagement, community advocacy, and professional development.

Candidates must be nominated by a colleague or supervisor.

Evaluation Criteria

Each of the following areas will serve as the rubric for evaluating candidates:

- **Contributions to College, Community, and Learners' Communities**

Demonstrated involvement in service activities that address institutional goals, community needs, and learner development. This includes:

- Faculty development initiatives
- Community clinics and outreach
- Enhancements to learning programs
- Service on numerous committees
- Contributions to the profession

- **Positive Impact of Service**

Evidence of tangible, positive change resulting from service activities, such as improvements in institutional effectiveness, community well-being, or learner outcomes.

- **Sustainability of Impact**

Long-term effects and ongoing benefits of service efforts, including systems, programs, or policies that ensure continued success.

- **Advocacy and Leadership**

Efforts to raise awareness, advocate for change, and lead initiatives that support institutional, community, or professional advancement.

Documentation Requirements

- Narrative (1–2 pages) using the following headings:
 - **Contributions to College, Community, and Learners' Communities**
Describe consistent involvement in service activities across these domains.
 - **Positive Impact of Service**
Detail measurable improvements and outcomes.
 - **Sustainability of Impact**
Explain how the service efforts have enduring value.
 - **Advocacy and Leadership**
Highlight efforts to promote awareness and drive change.

Supporting Evidence (Up to 20 pages) may include:

- Descriptions of involvement in faculty development, community clinics, educational initiatives, or institutional committees

- Statistical measures of improvement (e.g., learner success rates, community health metrics)
- Testimonials from colleagues, learners, or community members
- Recognition from professional organizations or media
- Documentation of long-term plans, training programs, or systems established
- Public engagement materials (e.g., speeches, articles, campaigns)
- Records of sustained service and leadership roles

Healthcare and Community Excellence Award

The Healthcare and Community Excellence Award is presented to a faculty member who demonstrates extraordinary compassion and commitment to promoting health equity, community engagement and belonging initiatives at the College and in the community within the last two years. This faculty serves as an excellent role models to peers, and models scholarship, community engagement, and dedication to excellence.

Selection criteria:

- Evidence of community engagement and service outside the faculty's role or position within the College.
- Evidence of campus and off campus services and activities which demonstrate outstanding leadership, courage, and support in the areas of pathway programs, mentorship, community engagement and health equity

Some examples of eligible activities or accomplishments for which an individual may be considered for the award include:

- Active involvement in organizations that foster belonging and community
- Promotion of health equity in teaching, research or service to/within the college or community
- Assistance with community belonging events and programs or participation (including attendance) in other activities that display a commitment to a welcoming and supportive environment

Nomination Process and Documentation requirements

Faculty members may be nominated by a colleague or self-nomination.

The following materials should be included in the nomination packet:

- 1-2 page letter of nomination which clearly outlines why the nominee is deserving of the award
- The curriculum vitae of the nominee

Clinical Excellence Award

The award will be given based on the **innovation in clinical practice, demonstration of clinical excellence, and commitment to patient-centered care**. Each of bolded activities or areas will serve as the rubric for evaluating candidates for the award.

Candidates must be nominated by a colleague or supervisor.

Documentation requirements

- 1-2 page narrative using the following headings:
 - **Innovation in clinical practice:** adoption or development of new medical techniques, technologies, or approaches that enhance patient care
 - **Clinical excellence:** describe examples of clinical proficiency, accuracy, and quality of care in diagnosing and treating patients.
 - **Patient-centered care:** explain strategies to address the individual needs of patients, including respect for their values, preferences, and expressed needs.
- Up to 20 pages of evidence that could include case studies, peer reviews, patient feedback that highlight diagnostic acumen, treatment effectiveness, and clinical outcomes, recognition or accreditation from professional bodies, examples of new treatment protocols or implementation of cutting-edge technology in patient care, testimonials from patients, patient satisfaction surveys, and/or examples of personalized care plans that demonstrate empathy, respect, and effective communication.

Outstanding Faculty Member Award

The award will be given based on **outstanding achievement in teaching, research, and service**. Each of bolded activities or areas will serve as the rubric for evaluating candidates for the award.

Candidates must be nominated by a colleague or supervisor.

Documentation requirements

- 1-2 page narrative using the following headings:
 - **Teaching excellence:** demonstrate ability to deliver or design high-quality education, foster an engaging learning environment.
 - **Research excellence:** describe quality, impact, and recognition of scholarly contributions.
 - **Service excellence:** describe contributions to the service of your department, institution, or the community at large.
- Up to 20 pages of evidence that could include student evaluations, peer reviews, teaching awards, description of innovations in teaching methods, sample lesson plans, curricular improvements, examples of active learning techniques implemented, description of impact on student learning outcomes, such as increases in student performance, engagement, and retention, list of publications, citations, conference presentations, any research grants received, description of significant findings, patents, or the application of research in practical settings, description of roles in committees, contributions to faculty governance, participation in community outreach programs, leadership in professional organizations, descriptions of specific service activities, the roles held, and their impacts on the community or institution, letters from colleagues or community leaders.