



UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

General Criteria UCF COM Faculty Awards 2026:

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 five 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 Department Chairs & Colleagues.

Nominations due: **Wednesday, September 16th**

- Basic and Population Health Sciences Research Award
- Achievement in Clinical and Translational Research Award
- Certificate of Recognition for Excellence in Community Service
- Golden Apple GME Educator Award

Nomination Process:

- The nominator must complete a brief nomination form of who and why the nominee should be considered.
- The Continuous Professional Learning team will then reach out to the nominee with the rubric and criteria.
- If the nominee wishes to accept the nomination, they must submit materials aligned with the award criteria by the deadline: **Monday, October 5th**

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 2026 COM Awards Ceremony in the fall. Questions? Contact madelynn.verkleeren@ucf.edu

The following awards are not open to colleague nominations, but are nominated by the Department Chairs or Designated Leadership and chosen based on the criteria (specifics noted within):

Chair/leadership nominations due: **Monday, October 5th**

- Golden Apple Awards (M1/M2; M3/M4; Graduate; Undergraduate (small class); Undergraduate (large class))
- Certificate of Recognition for Teaching Excellence (Surgery/IM/FM/ObGyn/Peds/Neuro/Psych clerkship)
- Certificate of Recognition for Clinical Excellence

- Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Contributions to Admissions
- Certificate of Recognition for Teaching Excellence - Community of Practice

Basic and Population Health Sciences Research Award

Faculty Eligible: Full-time faculty; Faculty who have not been awarded this award in the last 5 years

Award Overview

The Basic and Population Health Sciences Research Award recognizes faculty who demonstrate emerging excellence, growth, and future potential in basic science research. This award serves as a developmental pathway toward more prestigious research recognition (e.g., the UCF Research Incentive Award–RIA).

Award Criteria

Growth and Impact in Research

Nominees do not need to meet every example; examples are intended to guide holistic review within the context of the nominee's field and career stage.

Evidence may include:

- **Research Productivity and Quality**
 - Peer-reviewed publications, abstracts, and methodological contributions
 - Field-appropriate impact (e.g., citations, journal quality, shared tools/data)
 - Contributions advancing fundamental scientific knowledge
- **Recognition and Impact**
 - Growing recognition (e.g., invited presentations, awards, review activities)
 - Evidence of innovation, rigor, or scientific advancement
 - Sustained productivity and active research pipeline
- **Leadership and Initiative**
 - Increasing leadership roles (e.g., PI, co-investigator, project lead)
 - Contributions to collaborations or program development
 - **Mentorship and Research Environment**
 - Mentorship of students, trainees, or junior faculty
 - Contributions to a collaborative research environment
 - Evidence of mentee success (e.g., publications, presentations, awards)

Nomination Process and Documentation

- Nominations submitted by a colleague or chair
- **Materials required:**
 - Narrative (≤ 1 page) under the heading: *Growth and Impact in Research*
 - Up to 4 supporting documents (no hyperlinks & no more than 20 pages)

- Publications and citation metrics
 - Key research contributions
 - Grants (submitted/funded)
 - Awards and recognitions
 - Invited presentations
 - Evidence of impact on the field
 - Testimonials
 - Mentorship activities/outcomes
 - Peer recognition of collaboration or mentorship
 - Current CV
 - Reviewed by the UCF COM Faculty Awards committee
 - Includes a monetary award of \$500
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Achievement in Clinical and Translational Research Award

Faculty Eligible: Full-time faculty; Faculty who have not been awarded this award in the last 5 years

Award Overview

The Achievement in Clinical and Translational Research Award recognizes faculty who demonstrate emerging excellence, growth, and future potential in clinical, pre-clinical and translational research. This award serves as a developmental pathway toward more prestigious research recognition (e.g., the UCF Research Incentive Award–RIA). **Translational Research Definition:** Research that applies basic scientific discoveries to improve human health, including development of diagnostics, treatments, interventions, and movement into clinical or community practice.

Award Criteria

Nominees will be evaluated based on:

Growth and Impact in Research

Nominees do not need to meet every example; examples are intended to guide holistic review within the context of the nominee's field and career stage.

Evidence may include:

- **Research Productivity and Quality**
 - Clinical studies, trials, implementation research, and publications
 - Impact indicators (e.g., citations, clinical adoption, guideline contributions)
 - Contributions to improving patient care or health outcomes
- **Recognition and Impact**
 - Recognition within clinical/translational research communities
 - Evidence of innovation, rigor, or impact on care delivery
 - Sustained productivity and active studies
- **Leadership and Initiative**
 - Leadership in clinical or translational research efforts
 - Contributions to multidisciplinary collaborations or programs
 - **Mentorship and Research Environment**
 - Mentorship in clinical/translational research
 - Contributions to collaborative environments
 - Evidence of mentee success and development (e.g., publications, presentations, awards)

Nomination Process and Documentation

- Nominations submitted by a colleague or chair
- Materials required:

- Narrative (≤1 page) under the heading: *Growth and Impact in Research*
 - Up to 4 supporting documents (no hyperlinks & no more than 20 pages)
 - Publications and citation metrics
 - Key clinical or translational contributions
 - Grants (submitted/funded)
 - Awards and recognitions
 - Invited presentations
 - Evidence of impact on clinical practice or health outcomes
 - Testimonials
 - Mentorship activities/outcomes
 - Peer recognition of collaboration or mentorship
 - Current CV
- Reviewed by the UCF COM Faculty Awards committee
 - Includes a monetary award of \$500
-

Golden Apple Awards

Golden Apple GME Educator Award

Faculty Eligible: GME faculty; Faculty who have not been awarded this award in the last 5 years

Award Overview

The Graduate Medical Education (GME) Golden Apple Award is presented to a faculty member who demonstrates excellence in clinical teaching and mentorship of residents, and/or fellows over the past 2 years.

Award Criteria

- Evidence of the impact on residents and/or fellows demonstrating exemplary teaching
- Consistent participation in faculty development activities either locally or nationally to enhance one's teaching skills
- Development of curricula for residents and fellows specifically oriented for clinical teaching (case conferences, teaching rounds, etc)
- Significant time spent doing clinical teaching of trainees
- Providing significant mentorship to one or more resident/fellow trainees with evidence of tangible outcomes
 - Examples may include:
 - A trainee matching into a fellowship program with help of mentorship,
 - Publishing a case report with trainee
 - Presenting at a meeting with trainee
 - Trainee obtaining employment in academia after graduation due to support and mentorship from the faculty).

Nomination Process and Documentation

- Faculty members may be nominated by a Program Director or colleague
 - Materials required:
 - Current CV
 - A less than one page statement addressing the award criteria
 - Materials reviewed by GME Leadership
 - Includes a monetary award
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Golden Apple – M1/M2

Faculty Eligible: All faculty who teach in M1/M2; Faculty who have not been awarded this award in the last 5 years

Award Overview

Recognizes excellence in pre-clinical teaching using a data-informed rubric/ nomination form.

Award Criteria

- Minimum # of contact hours: 10 hours in a 1 year evaluation period
- Strong evidence of Teaching excellence
 - Examples may include:
 - Development/implementation of innovative teaching methods
 - Effectiveness in leading educational initiatives
 - Implementation of active learning strategies
 - Excellence in mentoring
 - Demonstrable positive impact on learning outcomes
 - Peer Evaluations
 - Learner Evaluations

Nomination Process and Documentation

- Nominations submitted by Department Chair
 - Materials required:
 - Current CV
 - Chair statement
 - Reviewed by the UCF COM Faculty Awards committee
 - Includes a monetary award of \$500
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Golden Apple – M3/M4

Faculty Eligible: Clerkship Teaching Faculty; Faculty who have not been awarded this award in the last 5 years

Award Overview

Recognizes excellence in clinical clerkship teaching.

Award Criteria

- Strong evidence of teaching excellence
- Examples may include:
 - ⊖ Peer evaluations
 - ⊖ Learner evaluations

Nomination Process and Documentation

- Nominations submitted by Clerkship Directors or Chairs
 - Materials required:
 - Current CV
 - Evidence of teaching excellence
 - Reviewed by the UCF COM Faculty Awards Committee
 - Includes a monetary award
-

Golden Apple Undergraduate Teacher Award – Class Size 50 or greater

Faculty Eligible: Burnett School (BSBS); Faculty who have not been awarded this award in the last 5 years

Award Overview

Recognizes excellence in undergraduate level (1,000-4,000 level) course development and teaching enhancement for classes with enrollment of over 50 students.

Award Criteria

- Demonstrates excellence in teaching
 - Examples include:
 - SPOIs with comments
 - Outcomes
 - Contributions
- Development/implementation of innovative teaching methods
- Effectiveness in leading educational initiatives
- Implementation of active learning strategies
- Excellence in mentoring
- Demonstrable positive impact on learning outcomes

Nomination Process and Documentation

- Nominations submitted by BSBS Director
 - Materials required:
 - Current CV
 - SPOIs with comments
 - Reviewed by the UCF COM Faculty Awards committee
 - Includes a monetary award
-

Golden Apple Undergraduate Teacher Award – Class Size 5-49

Faculty Eligible: Burnett School (BSBS); Faculty who have not won the award in the last 5 years

Award Overview

Recognizes excellence in undergraduate level (1,000-4,000 level) course development and teaching enhancement for classes with enrollment of 5 to 49 students.

Award Criteria

- Demonstrates excellence in teaching
 - Examples include:
 - SPOIs with comments
 - Outcomes
 - Contributions
- Development/implementation of innovative teaching methods
- Effectiveness in leading educational initiatives
- Implementation of active learning strategies
- Excellence in mentoring
- The demonstrable positive impact on learning outcomes

Nomination Process and Documentation

- Nominations submitted by BSBS Director
 - Materials required:
 - Current CV
 - SPOIs with comments
 - Reviewed by the UCF COM Faculty Awards committee
 - Includes a monetary award of \$500
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Golden Apple Graduate Teacher Award

Faculty Eligible: Burnett School (BSBS); Faculty who have not won the award in the last 5 years (enrollment >5)

Award Overview

Recognizes excellence in graduate level (5,000 level or above) course development and teaching enhancement.

Award Criteria

- Demonstrates excellence in teaching
 - Examples include:
 - SPOIs with comments
 - Outcomes
 - Contributions
- Development/implementation of innovative teaching methods
- Effectiveness in leading educational initiatives
- Implementation of active learning strategies
- Excellence in mentoring
- The demonstrable positive impact on learning outcomes

Nomination Process and Documentation

- Nominations submitted by BSBS Director
- Materials required:
 - Current CV
 - SPOIs with comments
- Reviewed by the UCF COM Faculty Awards committee
- Includes a monetary award of \$500

Certificates of Recognition

Certificate of Recognition for Excellence in Community Service

Faculty Eligible: All faculty; Faculty who have not won the award in the last 5 years

Award Overview

The Certificate of Recognition for Excellence in Community Service 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 model to peers, and models scholarship, community engagement, and dedication to excellence.

Criteria

Prepare a 1-2 page narrative including the following:

- 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

- Nominations submitted by colleagues
 - Materials required:
 - 1–2 page narrative highlighting the award criteria
 - Current CV
 - Reviewed by designated leadership in the Office of Access and Belonging
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Certificate of Recognition for Clinical Excellence

Faculty Eligible: All clinical faculty; Faculty who have not won the award in the last 5 years

Award Overview

Recognizes innovation in clinical practice, demonstration of clinical excellence, and commitment to patient-centered care.

Criteria

Prepare a 1–2-page narrative including the following:

- **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.
 - **Evidence may 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
 - Examples of personalized care plans that demonstrate empathy, respect, and effective communication

Nomination Process and Documentation

- Nominations submitted by Chair, ADCA or Medical Director
- Materials required:
 - Current CV
 - 1–2 page narrative
 - Up to 4 examples of supporting evidence (no more than 20 pages)
- Reviewed by the UCF COM Faculty Awards committee

Certificate of Recognition for Teaching Excellence (Clerkships)

Faculty Eligible: Clerkship Teaching Faculty; Faculty who have not won the award in the last 5 years

Award Overview

Recognizes excellence in clerkship teaching.

Criteria

- Excellence in teaching
- High-quality learning environment
 - Examples may include:
 - Peer evaluations
 - Learner evaluations

Nomination Process and Documentation

- Candidate chosen by Clerkship Leadership
- No additional materials required

Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Contributions to Admissions

Faculty Eligible: All Faculty; Faculty who have not won the award in the last 5 years

Award Overview

Recognizes outstanding contributions to the admissions process.

Criteria

- Engagement in admissions activities
- Contribution to holistic review and recruitment

Nomination Process and Documentation

- Candidate chosen by Admissions Leadership
 - No additional materials required
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Certificate of Recognition for Teaching Excellence – Community of Practice (COP)

Faculty Eligible: Faculty in Community of Practice; Faculty who have not won the award in the last 5 years

Award Overview

Recognizes excellence in teaching and engagement in COP.

Criteria

- Excellence in teaching within COP
- Mentorship and engagement

Nomination Process and Documentation

- Candidate chosen by COP Leadership
- No additional materials required