Call for Nominations

Date: December 16, 2022

To: All UF Graduate Deans, Associate Deans, School Directors, Department Chairs, Coordinators, and Staff

From: Nicole L.P. Stedman, Ph.D.
Dean and Associate Provost
The Graduate School

RE: Spring 2023 Graduate Student Teaching Awards

The nomination process for selecting our outstanding graduate teaching assistants for the 2022-2023 academic year is now underway. A university-wide faculty committee responsible for selecting the award winners encourages you to nominate deserving individuals. In the first week of April of Spring Semester, there will be a reception honoring the awardees with a plaque and monetary award. The top-ranked winner will receive the Calvin A. VanderWerf Award. This award was established in memory of Dr. VanderWerf, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences from 1971 to 1978 and chemistry professor from 1978 to 1988, who also served on the selection committee.

Nomination Criteria

Please make certain that the course the TA teaches the semester of nomination is one that allows the TA to showcase his or her skills. The committee will be looking to see the TA’s contribution to course development, their instructional technique, and their involvement with students. Therefore, do not recommend teaching assistants who are assisting online classes unless they had a significant role in developing the course, because the committee will be unable to fully evaluate their teaching. The teaching assistant’s role in developing the course for which they are nominated must be fully outlined in the letter of nomination and letters of recommendation. Additionally, for TAs teaching asynchronous on-line courses, meaningful information about the extent to which and ways in which the TA initiates and maintains contact with students must be provided. This information should be provided from the applicant and in supporting materials.

Since members of the selection committee will visit the classes/labs/online course of each nominee, TAs must be responsible for teaching the entire Spring Semester. In addition, the TA must teach at least 8 class sessions and 4 of which must occur after January 27th. The TA will not be notified when the class will be reviewed. Because of this, it is very important to contact Lorna Dishman at lornad@ufl.edu or 392-7012 as soon as possible with any schedule changes.

A department may nominate more than one TA each semester providing the total number of
departmental nominations per semester does not exceed one nominee for each 30 graduate assistants engaged in teaching a class, a discussion or laboratory section (e.g., A department with 15 TAs Fall term and 11 TAs Spring term could nominate 1 TA Fall term and another TA Spring term. A department with 31-60 TAs each semester could nominate a total of 2 TAs per semester).

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A TA may be nominated more than once; however, if the TA is not chosen as an awardee the first time they are nominated, they may be nominated only one additional time. Also, if the TA has won before, there must be a three-year period before the TA can be nominated again.

**Required Information**

The following information and supporting data **must** accompany each nomination:

1. The Spring Semester teaching schedule of the nominee. Please include:
   - Nominee’s UFID
   - Course title
   - Course number
   - Class schedule/time/day(s) and the room number where the course is being taught (please give the full name of the room location). Before submitting, please review the accuracy of this information. **Make sure this information also matches the TA’s schedule listed on the syllabus.**
   - A list of any scheduled exams, field trips, guest speakers, etc.
   - Directions on how to gain access to the online course

2. A one-page letter addressed to Dean Stedman from the department chair specifying the basis on which the teaching performance of the nominee has been judged outstanding. **In addition, if you are nominating a teaching assistant assisting an online class, the nomination letter must fully outline the teaching assistant’s role in developing the course for which they are nominated. Additionally, for TAs teaching asynchronous online courses, meaningful information about the extent to which and ways in which the TA initiates and maintains contact with students must be provided. This information should be provided from the applicant and in supporting materials.** Otherwise, the committee will be unable to fully evaluate their teaching.
3. The nominee’s course syllabus (in English) and how it is being taught (i.e., laboratory, lecture, discussion, online). Please indicate if there is anything special about the course, e.g., restrictions placed on the material or on the student teacher. We encourage you to nominate laboratory instructors as well as lecture/discussion instructors.

4. A one-page, double-spaced, statement by the nominee describing his or her teaching philosophy.

5. Summaries of the student’s teaching evaluation results from the preceding semester or semesters. Below are the directions to generate the evaluation spreadsheet. If you have questions regarding generating the evaluation spreadsheet, please e-mail gatorevals-support@ufl.edu. Note to nominators - please only submit students with high evaluations. In addition, if the student has not taught a formal course previously, there needs to be a letter of justification explaining why he or she is being nominated.

Steps for generating the evaluation spreadsheet:

- Go to https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/ and logon with your GatorLink credentials.
- On the home page, you will see a “Reports” section.
- In the “Category” section, select the term (and other parameters if necessary)
- Locate the desired evaluation report.
- Download the report via PDF.

These instructions should be sufficient for both instructors and administrators.

6. The Graduate School is no longer accepting nominations in hard copy. Please send your nomination electronically to Lorna Dishman at lornad@ufl.edu. Scan your nomination packet as one PDF in the order listed above under “Required Information” items 1-5.

NOTE: All required information and data must be submitted by the department to the Graduate School for the student to qualify. An incomplete nomination packet will result in the student not being considered.

Nomination Packet

Click this online link for the nomination packet: Graduate Student Teaching Awards Nomination Packet.

Deadline

The deadline for nominations is Tuesday, January 17, 2023 by 5 p.m.