



Tuesday, January 27, 2026

2025-2026 Non-Senate Faculty Distinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award

This Senate Award, given jointly by the Academic Senate and the Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, is intended to encourage and recognize the outstanding work of Non-Senate Faculty in teaching undergraduates at UC Merced. A list of previous recipients is provided on page 3 and is available at https://senate.ucmerced.edu/previous_senate_awardees.

Eligibility

All Non-Senate Faculty who have not previously received this award are eligible, including those nominated in prior years but not selected.

Criteria for Award

1. Non-Senate Faculty may receive this award only once during their tenure at UC Merced.
2. The award may be given in recognition of outstanding instructional activities during a single academic year or over multiple years.
3. The award is limited to distinguished undergraduate teaching and instructional activities.
4. The award may be given in recognition of a broad range of contributions to the instructional program at UC Merced, including but not limited to the following criteria:
 - Command of the subject and the ability to present it cogently.
 - Evidence for innovation or exceptional accomplishments related to instruction.
 - Enthusiasm and vitality in learning and teaching.
 - Ability to stimulate thought and engage students in an active learning process.
 - Ability to inspire independent and original thinking.
 - Responsiveness and concern for the education and welfare of students.
 - Participation in student advising and mentoring.
 - Evidence for student success in subsequent academic and career activities.
 - Responsiveness to student diversity, equity and inclusion.

Nomination Process

Nominations for the award may be submitted by any member of the UC Merced community, including students, faculty, staff, and alumni. The nomination should describe the nominee's qualifications for the award, with reference to the criteria listed above. **Nominations should be submitted electronically as one PDF packet to the Chair of the Academic Senate (senatechair@ucmerced.edu) with a copy to the Senate Office (senateoffice@ucmerced.edu) and must include the following:**

1. A [nomination form](#).
2. **One nomination letter** (maximum of two pages) highlighting the nominee's outstanding contributions to undergraduate teaching at UC Merced. The letter may be written by any member of the UC Merced community (student, faculty, staff, or alumni) who is familiar with the nominee's accomplishments. Faculty with administrative appointments (e.g. deans) may serve as nominators.
3. **Three supporting letters (suggested length two pages) specifically solicited for this nomination.**
 - One letter is written by a Senate faculty member.
 - One letter is written by a current or former undergraduate student.
 - One letter is written by another Senate faculty member, a Unit 18 lecturer, another student or any other individual who has an appropriate professional background to comment on the nominee's undergraduate teaching.
4. **Current and complete curriculum vitae.**
5. **Nominee's statement on teaching.**
6. **Nominee's statement on contributions to diversity.**

All the nomination materials and notes will be held in confidence by the UGC Awards Committee.

Selection Process

The [Undergraduate Council](#) (UGC) will form an ad-hoc committee to serve as the UGC Awards Committee with a minimum of three members. Membership will include:

- At least one UGC Senate faculty who will also serve as Chair of the Awards Committee
- A UGC ex-officio member (VPDUE or VCSAE)
- An undergraduate student representative
- A Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning representative

The UGC Awards Committee will review nominations, and members will submit their first-choice candidate or their recommendation that no award is merited, to the Chair of the UGC Awards Committee, with a brief justification for either case. The UGC Awards Committee will select a recipient based on majority vote.

The UGC Awards Committee will complete its selection process and inform the Chair of the Academic Senate (senatechair@ucmerced.edu) and the Senate Office (senateoffice@ucmerced.edu) of the results. On the recommendation of the UGC Awards Committee, any finalist may be nominated for the award the following year.

Deadline for Nominations: 5:00pm, Monday, March 30, 2026.

The announcement of the recipient will be made during the UC Merced Spring [Meeting of the Division](#).

Past Recipients

- 2024-2025 Angela Winek
- 2023-2024 Antoinette Stone
- 2022-2023 Meaghan Altman
- 2021-2022 Kristina Callaghan
- 2020-2021 Alexander Khislavsky
- 2019-2020 Yolanda Pineda Vargas
- 2018-2019 Emily Reed and Carles Ferrando Valero
- 2017-2018 Mufadhal Alkuhlani
- 2016-2017 Kamal Dulai
- 2015-2016 Debra Conte
- 2014-2015 Christopher Ramirez
- 2013-2014 John Hundley
- 2012-2013 Rolf Johansson
- 2011-2012 Jon Carlson