COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

University Distinguished Teaching Scholars Nomination Information

Updated and approved by CoTL: 3-23-2026

The following information and guidelines are designed to assist in the development of nominations for University Distinguished Teaching Scholars.

Purposes, Mission, and Attributes of the University Distinguished Teaching Scholars

The purposes of establishing and maintaining the University Distinguished Teaching Scholars designation are:

a. to confer honor upon faculty members for outstanding teaching and scholarship of teaching;
b. to symbolize the continuing commitment of Colorado State University to the pursuit of excellence in teaching and learning.

The status of the University depends upon the stature of the faculty, and the University chooses through the University Distinguished Teaching Scholar designation to recognize mentors for emulation. To ensure the fulfillment of the intended purposes, the University relies upon the judgments of faculty and other members of the University community in the appointment process.

The mission of the University Distinguished Teaching Scholars is:

- To signal to the faculty the importance of quality teaching within the larger university mission of teaching, research, service, and engagement.
- To contribute to the creation of a culture where the scholarship of teaching and learning is valued and appreciated as an integral component of the research mission.
- To work toward continuous improvement in teaching across the university.
- To engage in leadership roles that contribute to and elevate the teaching mission of the university.

University Distinguished Teaching Scholars shall have records of performance ranking them among the most outstanding teachers and scholars of teaching at Colorado State University and beyond. They will have sustained, continuing, and cumulative accomplishments in teaching and the scholarship of education whose impact extends beyond their home unit. The Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President will oversee the selection process in collaboration with the Committee on Teaching and Learning and the current UDTS.

Those faculty members designated as University Distinguished Teaching Scholars:

- May be identified by title in matters relating to the University and all academic settings;
- Will be identified by title in University publications;
- Will receive appropriate recognition at academic ceremonies;
- Will receive a special medallion suitable for wearing with academic regalia;

- Will receive a permanent base salary increment of $7,500; and
- Will receive an annual $2,500 operating account (for a minimum of three years) from their home College to enable them to pursue an instructional improvement/innovation project.

Faculty members receiving the title of University Distinguished Teaching Scholar will hold this title for the duration of their employment with Colorado State University, so long as they are in good standing.

Selection Criteria

Four primary selection criteria inform the selection of new University Distinguished Teaching Scholars. Items 1, 2 and 3 in the following list are necessary but not sufficient conditions for selection. Items 4 and 5 are primary selection criteria, either of which would be sufficient for selection, given demonstration of the three necessary criteria.

1. *Demonstration of excellent teaching.* A UDTS nomination must provide evidence that the candidate is a good teacher and that their teaching has resulted in student learning. Ideally, the nomination should provide qualitative and quantitative evidence of effective teaching and student learning.
2. *Evidence of sustained, broad impact.* Typically, “sustained impact” represents a body of work that spans a decade or more. The nomination should demonstrate that the candidate has advanced teaching and learning outside their own department or program over a substantial period of time. Some of this work may have occurred at another institution, although a significant portion of it should have occurred at CSU.
3. *Future scholarly contributions*. The nominee will identify a challenge or opportunity to increase educational impacts and propose a three-year instructional improvement/innovation project demonstrating its value to the college, university, and/or beyond. (Not to exceed three pages.)
4. *Substantial and sustained contributions to the scholarship of teaching and learning in and/or beyond the nominee’s discipline*. These contributions would likely include one or more of the following: peer-reviewed scholarly articles and/or books; presentations at conferences (regional, national, international); development of novel instructional materials; leadership in TILT workshops; acquisition of competitive external funding in support of educational innovations; and/or other examples of discipline-informed applied scholarship.
5. *Sustained scholarly contributions to program development and/or innovative teaching practices beyond the nominee’s department or program*. These contributions might include innovative curriculum development that has a positive impact on the college, university, or discipline; participation in professional organization efforts to enhance learning and teaching in a discipline; leadership in symposia on teaching and learning; publication of open access and/or open education resource materials; development of instructional platforms that support teaching and learning.

Note: Nominees must not be in a transitional retirement appointment at the time of their nomination.

Nomination Materials

The nomination packet must include the following:

1. Nomination Letter: A cover letter addressing the Nominee's qualifications, summarizing their accomplishments, and indicating why they merit the title of University Distinguished Teaching Scholar, signed by the Nominator and approved by the respective Dean. (Not to exceed 1,000 words.)
2. Narrative Summary by the candidate: A reflective statement about teaching and scholarly philosophy, areas of emphasis, and accomplishments. (Not to exceed 1,000 words.)
3. List of evidence and accomplishments that address nomination criteria 1, 2, 4 and 5 (Not to exceed 10 pages).
4. Statement of future scholarly contributions: The nominee will identify a challenge or opportunity to increase educational impacts and propose a three-year instructional improvement/innovation project demonstrating its value to the college, university, and/or beyond. (Not to exceed three pages.)
5. Letters of Support: Up to four letters of support from experts (colleagues, stakeholders, students, and other individuals). Letter writers should speak to sustained, continuing, and cumulative accomplishments in teaching and the scholarship of education whose impact extends beyond their home unit. (Not to exceed two pages per letter.)
6. Curriculum vitae: An abbreviated curriculum vitae (four pages or less). NIH, NSF or other standard format short bio sketches/CVs are acceptable.

Submission: The deadline is Monday, December 14, 2026. Submit the nomination packet electronically (PDF) to Provost_MainDesk@colostate.edu. The subject line should read UDTS Nomination – Last Name, First Name. No hard copies or late submissions will be accepted.