



Regents Professor Award

Revised 04/2023

Purpose, Award and Eligibility

Purpose

Each year, the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System honors individuals at the rank of professor or equivalent whose outstanding performance in teaching, research, and service has been exemplary. The award is the highest honor bestowed by the A&M System on faculty members. The performance of those selected is considered meritorious and worthy of recognition of their achievements that impacted not only their institution or agency but also the community, the state of Texas, and/or national and international levels.

Award

The Regents Professor Award is based on the nominee's accomplishments throughout the past fiscal year. The designation of Regents Professor is the highest System-wide honor and carries significant responsibilities. Regents Professors are expected to function as role models within the A&M System and to devote appropriate service to System-wide activities, both ceremonial and professional when requested by their chief executive officer and/or the chancellor.

Eligibility

A nominee for the Regents Professor award shall be a full-time faculty member who has held the rank of professor (full) or equivalent for not less than five (5) consecutive years within an A&M System university or agency (i.e., agency to mean the engineering or agriculture components) and may include department heads and/or deans provided their administrative duties do not overshadow their faculty responsibilities.

The Regents Professor nominee must present evidence of the following:

- A demonstrated record of distinguished teaching
- A demonstrated record of distinguished accomplishments in research and other creative and scholarly activities
- A demonstrated record of outstanding service at the local, state, and/or national/ international levels
- A demonstrated record of commitment to the university or agency
- A record of notable indicators of the potential for the continuation of distinguished performance in all three areas (i.e., teaching, research, and service)

Individuals who have received the Regents Fellow Service Award are not eligible to receive the Regents Professor Award.

Nomination Process

Call for Nominations

In February, the A&M System chancellor will send a call for nominations to the university and agency Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and Chief Academic Officers. After receiving the call for nominations, the university and agency leaders will distribute the call to their respective deans, directors, associate deans, department heads, and others as appropriate.



University Nomination Process

Upon receipt of the chancellor's Call for Nominations for the Regents Professor Award, the CEO and/or vice chancellor of the respective university/agency will announce the onset of the nomination and selection process. With the university president's or program vice-chancellor's concurrence, the local faculty governance structure shall appoint a review/selection committee. It is recommended that the review/selection committee include a past Regents Professor recipient to serve as an ex-officio representative.

This committee will issue a general call for Regents Professor nominations. Nominations may originate from deans, department heads, directors, program chairs, administrators, award committees, and individuals or groups of faculty members. All nominations must be coordinated through the university's review/selection committee.

Number of Nominations

Institutions with less than 140 full-time professors or equivalent may forward up to one (1) Regents Professor nomination for consideration by the A&M System Review Committee; those with more than 140 full-time professors or equivalent may forward up to two (2) nominations.

A university/agency component may not increase its number of nominees in a given year to make up for years in which it did not submit recommendations.

In 2023, Texas A&M University's maximum nomination amount was increased to four (4) nominations in recognition of the significant increase in its faculty size since the inauguration of the Regents Professor Award program in 1998. Additionally, all nominations that had previously been separately allocated to Texas A&M University and its associated campuses (e.g., College Station (4), Galveston Campus (1), and Health Science Center (2)) and agencies (e.g., Engineering (1) and Agriculture (1)) will be combined into a centralized TAMU pool of nine (9) nominations that the TAMU president will manage.

Nomination Packet

The designation of Regents Professor is the most prestigious award from the A&M System to highlight exemplary faculty. Therefore, the nomination packet assembled for review should summarize the best of the nominee's performance in teaching, research, and service during their career. Equal weight is to be given to performance in all three areas.

The selection process is a two-step procedure. The first step requires the submission of materials for the University Nomination Packet. The second step involves submitting additional materials for the System Nomination Packet.



Step I. University Nomination Packet

The primary evaluation of the candidate's qualifications shall be the responsibility of the university/agency. The following documents shall be submitted as part of the university nomination process for a candidate to be considered a nominee:

- ❑ **Nominating Letter (3-page max. length):** A letter of nomination submitted to the selection committee from any of the following: deans, department heads, directors, program chairs, administrators, award committees, and individual or groups of faculty members.
- ❑ **Summary Presentation (third-person, single-spaced, 12-point font, 5-page max. length):** The summary presentation should be a compilation of the nominee's most outstanding qualifications, significant achievements, and contributions with demonstrated superior performance in teaching, research, and service. This can be achieved through a personal statement by the nominee establishing the importance of their accomplishments in each of the three categories (teaching, research, and service) or as part of a nomination package prepared by their unit. Since a curriculum vitae will be a part of this packet, the statement should attempt to go beyond what is in the vitae.
- ❑ **Vitae (25-page max. length):** A current and moderately detailed vitae highlighting the nominee's career and outstanding accomplishments. Please delete all personal references, such as marital status and family references.
- ❑ **Optional Supporting Material (5-page max. length):** Samples of teaching, scholarship, research, and service-related materials that further endorses the nominee's candidacy.

Step II. System Nomination Packet

The following documents should be submitted electronically via the submission portal on the Regents Awards webpage (<https://www.tamus.edu/academic/regents-awards/>) on or before the stated deadline.

- ❑ **Letter of Transmittal:** A signed letter from the chief executive officer(s) addressed to the Chancellor, endorsing the nominee;
- ❑ **Summary Letter from Local Selection Committee:** A summary of the university/agency's nomination, review, and selection process, including criteria that were considered;
- ❑ **Photograph:** A color, high-resolution (at least 300 dpi) headshot photograph of the nominee in a .JPG format. Please do not submit a photo embedded in a Word or .PDF file;
- ❑ **Vitae:** A current and moderately detailed curriculum vitae (25-page max. length). Please delete all personal references such as marital status and family references;
- ❑ **Summary Presentation:** A compilation (written in third-person, single-spaced, 12-point font, 5-page max. length) of the nominee's most outstanding qualifications, major achievements, and contributions that demonstrate the nominee's competence in exceeding the three listed criteria areas (teaching, research, and service) for the award. This can be the same presentation submitted in the university/agency nomination packet.;
- ❑ **Nomination Form:** The nomination form can be accessed via the nomination submission portal on the Regents Awards webpage;



- ❑ **Letters of Support:** A maximum of ten (10) letters of support and/or endorsement from external stakeholders, clients, constituents, and/or appropriate colleagues;
- ❑ **Past Awards and Recognitions:** A summary/list of past awards and/or recognitions should accompany the nomination packet;
- ❑ **Other Supporting Materials:** A list or examples of any other supporting materials such as contract and grant activity, patents, licenses, and the development of technology, technical assistance, or response efforts and its impact on society or the economy that may not fall into one of the categories listed above;
- ❑ **Teaching Performance Folder: (suggested weight: 33.3%):** Each full-time employee who earns the rank of professor (or equivalent) is expected to have achieved success in imparting sufficient content in their discipline to enable students in their courses to achieve the desired outcomes needed to prepare them for more advanced study and/or for entry into selected professions.

A nominee for the Regents Professor Award is expected to have mastered having students achieve performance outcomes at an exceptional level acknowledged by a substantial population of former students, faculty within and/or outside the unit, or other persons in a position to judge performance outcomes.;

Submission Materials:

- a) Narrative presentation including philosophy of teaching, courses developed, teaching methodology;
 - b) Description of innovative teaching materials, methods, uses of technology, etc.;
 - c) Recent formal standard evaluations (student, peers, supervisors) as part of their past performance evaluation packet;
 - d) Other assessments and applicable documentation as appropriate (e.g., licensure examination records of former students, examples of student engagement in the learning process, new approaches to student collaboration, mentoring, etc.);
 - e) Limited examples of citations or other acknowledgments by former students (e.g., letters, e-mails, cards, etc.);
- ❑ **Research/Creative Scholarly Activity Folder: (suggested weight: 33.3%):** Each full-time employee who earns the rank of professor (or equivalent) is expected to have succeeded in contributing new knowledge to their discipline or a related discipline.

A nominee for the Regents Professor Award is expected to have made significant contributions to their discipline and with the likelihood of continued contribution.

In addition to producing research, creative, and scholarly works, the faculty should have mentored students and junior faculty and infused their research, creative or scholarly works into their teaching.;

Submission Materials:

- a) Narrative summary of research goals and accomplishment



- b) Samples of research, creative or scholarly works (e.g., books, articles, electronic presentations, monographs, invited papers, reports, etc.);
- c) Samples of conference programs and other items that evidence student and/or junior faculty involvement in research, creative or scholarly works.;

Service: (suggested weight: 33.3%): Each full-time employee who earns the rank of professor (or equivalent) is expected to have made contributions to professional organizations, societies, and/or communities during their career. Service may be at national and international levels as well.

A nominee for the Regents Professor Award is expected to have invested their time and expertise in advancing professional organizations, special projects, or initiatives that promote the mission and goals of the System member with which they are affiliated.

Submission Materials:

- a) A narrative summary of service on the local, state, national, and international level (including names or organizations or agencies served, descriptions of service, and dates of service);
- b) A listing of service to the university and community (e.g., committees, task forces, improvement teams, advisory committees, etc.);

Review and Selection Process

University Review/Selection Committee

The local faculty governance structure shall appoint a university review/selection committee with the university president's or program vice-chancellor's concurrence. It is recommended that the review/selection committee include a past Regents Professor award recipient to serve as an ex-officio representative.

The appointed committee will review the submitted University Nomination Packet, ensuring *eligibility* and *demonstrated record of distinguished performance* have been adequately addressed, and may interview candidates along with on and off-campus peers before making recommendations to the CEO for a Regents Professor Award. The primary evaluation of the nominee's qualifications shall be the responsibility of the university review committee.

In instances where the appointment duties of a nominee are not equitably distributed between teaching, service, and research (e.g., administrative duties, research grants/funding, etc.), the context and effects of these factors should be carefully considered in the evaluation process. The review committee should present evidence of the specific values assigned to the nominee's regular duties and how those duties are clearly, and demonstrably related to the three areas of evaluation. For example, suppose the university review committee selects such an applicant as the institutional nominee. In that case, the transmittal document from that committee should address how the applicant's particular distribution of duties was evaluated to meet the System's requirement of equal distinction in teaching, service, and research.

Nominees who have joint appointments within the university/agency will require review and approval by the CEO of each university/agency. From those nominations, the committee will select a limited number of finalists and make its recommendation to the appropriate CEO through the office of the chief academic officer and/or vice-chancellor.



Following the review and concurrence by the CEO, or each CEO in the case of joint appointments, the final nominee(s) will be notified. A formal nomination packet will be prepared for submission to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, which will require the final nominee(s) to submit a more comprehensive set of materials as noted in Step II – the System Nomination Packet.

A&M System Review Committee

A system-level review committee, chaired by the vice-chancellor for academic affairs, and comprised of other designated vice-chancellors and past Regents Award recipients, will review the Regents Professor nominee packets. The committee will focus on the accomplishments and distinguished careers of the nominee in the areas of commitment and contributions to teaching, research, and service. Their recommendation will be forwarded to the chancellor and then, upon request by the chancellor, to the Board of Regents.

Board of Regents Approval

The Regents Professor Award is the highest System-wide recognition awarded to the selected faculty member. Regents Professor Award recipients' selection and formal approval is granted solely by the A&M System Board of Regents and typically occurs during their fall meeting.

Award Recognition

Regents Professor Title

The recipient of the Regents Professor Award shall retain the title of *Regents Professor* for the duration of their service within the Texas A&M University System.

Stipend

Recipients receive a monetary stipend in the total amount of \$15,000, payable as a non-base award. The respective agency may, at their discretion, award the entire stipend at one time. Each university or agency will fund the stipend through its normal budgeting process.

Medallion

Every Regents Professor Award recipient receives a special commemorative medallion bearing the seal of the A&M System. The medallion is designed to be worn on special agency occasions when appropriate. The medallion, inscribed nameplate, and certificate, signed by the Chancellor and Chairman of the Board of Regents, are presented to the Regents Fellow recipients at the special recognition ceremony.

Special Recognition Event

Following Board approval, a special recognition event/ceremony shall commence at a date/location chosen by the Board of Regents and in consultation with the Chancellor.