

LSU College of Science Excellence in Mentoring Awards

Number of awards

Two per year. One is for tenure-track/tenured faculty and the other for non-tenure-track faculty.

Eligibility requirements

The College of Science Excellence in Mentoring Award recognizes a faculty member who demonstrates sustained and exemplary mentoring of students in science and mathematics. Effective mentoring may include guidance and support in teaching, research, service, academic achievement, and professional or career development.

For consideration, candidates must be faculty members in the College of Science who have not previously received this award. Faculty may be nominated by their department, peers, students, or postdoctoral scholars for outstanding mentoring of individuals from a wide range of backgrounds and career stages.

The award honors faculty who demonstrate an exceptional commitment to mentoring through intentional, individualized engagement that supports mentee success. Exemplary mentoring may include, but is not limited to:

- Supporting mentees' intellectual development, research independence, and academic or professional trajectories
- Providing meaningful advising on career pathways in academia, industry, education, or related fields
- Creating supportive, intellectually rigorous mentoring environments that promote growth and engagement
- Demonstrating measurable outcomes such as retention, degree completion, scholarly publications or presentations, awards, or successful placement following training

Recipients of this award exhibit a consistent record of mentoring impact, as evidenced by mentee achievement, persistence, and professional advancement. Faculty members may also be recognized for initiating, leading, or making significant contributions to mentoring efforts that strengthen academic and professional development within the College of Science.

Advisors to student organizations and activities are eligible for consideration, provided they demonstrate active, substantive mentoring aligned with the criteria above. General service as a faculty advisor, without evidence of meaningful mentoring engagement, is not sufficient for consideration.

Nomination packages must include two or three letters from former individuals mentored. Letters from former mentees carry primary evaluative weight due to their ability to assess long-term mentoring impact. Current students' perspectives may be included only as supplementary, non-evaluative statements and will be considered contextual rather than determinative.

Information to be included in the nomination packages

- Letter of Nomination
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Mentoring Philosophy (up to 2 pages)
- List of individuals mentored (with their degree and year if applicable) and relevant outcomes of mentored activities (if available).
- Two or three letters from former individuals mentored

Who should nominate?

Departments are encouraged to broadly solicit nominations within the unit, from faculty, students, and postdocs. Students and postdocs are encouraged to notify the Department Chair and/or Departmental Awards Committee Chair that they are nominating a faculty member for the Mentoring Award. To avoid a conflict of interest, mentors should not request a nomination or supporting letters from their current students and postdocs. Also, mentees are asked not to notify their mentors of a nomination.