

# The Richard G. Law Excellence Award for Undergraduate Teaching

(rev. 2-17-21)

The Richard G. Law Excellence Award for Undergraduate Teaching is given to recognize outstanding teaching by faculty in Washington State University's [University Common Requirements \(UCORE\)](#) general education program. Honoring Dr. Law's service to the university as Director of General Education from 1990 to 2009, the award values the important role played by general education faculty across the university in helping students attain WSU's Learning Goals for undergraduates, especially outside their major area of study. Recognizing that effective leaders in all areas need to draw on a breadth of knowledge and skills from a variety of disciplinary fields, faculty receiving this award inspire curiosity and understanding of an area of study. Their classes encourage development of the lifelong learning skills of integrating and synthesizing concepts to solve real problems.

## Eligibility

The Law Award is open to all instructors of record (including short term, career-track, and tenure-track faculty) on all WSU campuses whose teaching has included at least one UCORE class for the past three years (2018-19 through 2020-21); gaps due to sabbatical leaves do not affect eligibility.

## Criteria

Application materials must speak to a strong commitment to the values of general education, including the following qualities of instruction:

1. Clear focus on student development and enhancement of the skills embedded in the WSU Learning Goals in courses taught, especially for nonmajors.
2. Emphasis on a student-centered classroom with components that actively engage students with course materials.
3. Excellent rapport with and mentoring of students, evidencing a robust commitment to kindling their desire for lifelong learning.
4. Evidence of desire to become a more effective instructor through use of ongoing classroom assessment and/or professional development.
5. Evidence of strong student evaluations of UCORE course(s) taught.

A strong nomination may also include:

6. Evidence of outstanding work with UCORE learning outcomes assessment projects/program for the betterment of WSU undergraduate education (for example, leadership in aligning one or more courses to meet the learning goals of a UCORE designation, or departmental work with developing learning outcomes or outcomes assessment).
7. Demonstrated ability to be an effective teacher in UCORE classes with large enrollments.
8. Demonstrated ability to effectively work with the needs of students transitioning into university work (100-level courses) or professional situations (capstones).
9. Effective use of technology in the curriculum and/or delivery of the course, including but not limited to virtual learning.

## **Application Process** (including nomination of an instructor)

### **Completing Application Materials**

All eligible instructors are welcome to apply online by the deadline. Also, names of eligible faculty members may also be nominated to the selection committee, which will then reach out to the nominee to invite them to complete and submit application materials.

### **Online Law Award Application Form**

The form to complete to apply for a Law Award is available online during the open period at <https://daesa.wsu.edu/vps-comms/faculty-support/law-award/>.

### **Deadline**

All applications materials, including requested letters of support, are due using the online submission form on Thurs., April 1, 2021. Applicants will be notified of award decisions in mid-April.

### **Application Materials Collected by the Online Form**

The online form requires completion of certain fields and uploads of documents. More specifically, the form collects three types of information from each applicant:

1. Basic personal and contact information as well as the upload of a 3-to-5-page application statement document that explains how the applicant addresses the Law Award criteria (shown above).
2. An additional support document must be uploaded that provides evidence of the applicant's approach to or effectiveness of teaching (this could include, for example, syllabus, assignment prompt, results of assessment of teaching and learning).
3. The names and emails for 2-3 persons (colleagues, alumni, former students, or community members) who will be asked to submit letters of support for the applicant. Once the form is submitted, an email will be automatically generated by the form system and sent to each of the persons listed with a link to another online form where their letter should be uploaded for submission.

## **Questions**

All questions about the award or the application process should be directed to [daesa.provost@wsu.edu](mailto:daesa.provost@wsu.edu).