

# The Richard G. Law Excellence Award for Undergraduate Teaching

*(rev. 2-1-22)*

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 faculty (including short term, career-track, and tenure-track) on all WSU campuses whose teaching has included at least one UCORE class for the past three years (2019-20 through 2021-22). 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 and/or programs 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. [Nominations of eligible instructors may also be emailed to the selection committee](#), which will then reach out to the nominee with an invitation to complete and submit application materials.

### Online Law Award Application Forms

The form to apply for a Law Award is available online during the open period at [daesa.wsu.edu/vps-comms/faculty-support/law-awards](https://daesa.wsu.edu/vps-comms/faculty-support/law-awards). Letters of recommendation are uploaded by recommendation writers to a separate form at [daesa.wsu.edu/vps-comms/faculty-support/law-awards/letters-of-support](https://daesa.wsu.edu/vps-comms/faculty-support/law-awards/letters-of-support).

### Deadline

All applications materials, including requested letters of support, are due using the online submission form by 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, March 10, 2022. Applicants will be notified of award decisions in early April.

### Application Materials Collected using the Online Form

The [online application form](#) requires four types of information from each applicant:

1. Basic personal and contact information.
2. Upload of a 3-to-5-page statement explaining how the applicant addresses the Law Award criteria (shown above).
3. Upload of an additional support document that provides evidence of the applicant's approach to or effectiveness in teaching (this could include, for example, syllabus, assignment prompt, results of assessment of teaching and learning).
4. Upload of 2-3 letters of support from colleagues, alumni, former students, or community members who can speak to the applicant's effectiveness teaching UCORE classes. Letter should be uploaded online to the [recommendation submission form](#) by the letter writer (*not* the applicant) by 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, March 10, 2022.

---

## Questions

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