

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
SOUTH CAMPUS DISCIPLINES**

2027 GOLD SHIELD FACULTY PRIZE

\$35,000 Unrestricted Award for
Academic Excellence



ABOUT THE GOLD SHIELD FACULTY PRIZE

Gold Shield Alumnae of UCLA established the Faculty Prize in 1986 to honor outstanding teaching with recognition and a meaningful monetary award—one that could make a real difference in the lives of outstanding faculty in the middle of their academic careers.

Awarded annually, the Gold Shield Faculty Prize recognizes a UCLA faculty member who has demonstrated exceptional achievement in undergraduate teaching, research or creative work, and service to the university. Since its inception, 30 remarkable faculty members have received this honor.

The prize alternates each year between north and south campus disciplines at UCLA. In the spring of odd-numbered years, the award goes to a faculty member from the south campus, which includes the College of Letters and Sciences: Life Sciences Division, College of Letters and Sciences: Physical Sciences Division, Fielding School of Public Health, and the Samueli School of Engineering.

The 2027 recipient will be selected from a nominee representing a south campus discipline.

Recognition

The recipient of the Gold Shield Faculty Prize will receive a \$35,000 unrestricted cash award, distributed in two installments of \$17,500.

They'll be honored at Gold Shield's annual Faculty Prize event, where they'll receive a commemorative plaque and serve as the featured speaker. They'll also chair the Faculty Prize Selection Committee for the following cycle.

Timeline

Nominations Due: February 12, 2027

To be considered for the award, outstanding faculty must be nominated by a UCLA colleague and nominations must be received by the deadline shown above. *Self-nominations are not accepted.*

Review and Selection of Prize Recipient: March-April 2027

The Gold Shield Faculty Prize Selection Committee will review nominations and select one recipient for the prize.

Prize Announcement: May 2027

A Gold Shield representative will notify the recipient and their nominator of the award, and a public announcement will follow shortly after. In the weeks following the announcement, Gold Shield will interview the recipient and publish an article in the UCLA Newsroom.

Eligible Schools, Departments, Disciplines

The 2027 award recipient will be selected from the **south campus disciplines**, including:

College of Letters and Sciences:

Life Sciences Division

Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
Integrative Biology & Physiology
Microbiology, Immunology & Molecular Genetics
Molecular, Cell & Developmental Biology
Psychology

College of Letters and Sciences:

Physical Sciences Division

Atmospheric & Oceanic Sciences
Chemistry and Biochemistry
Earth, Planetary & Space Sciences
Mathematics
Physics & Astronomy
Statistics

Fielding School of Public Health

Biostatistics
Community Health Sciences
Environmental Health Sciences
Epidemiology
Health Policy & Management

Samueli School of Engineering

Bioengineering
Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering
Civil & Environmental Engineering
Computer Science
Electrical & Computer Engineering
Materials Sciences & Engineering
Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering

Additional eligibility requirements:

- Nominees must hold the rank of Full Professor and must have held that academic title for at least one year.
- He/she/they may currently teach students at the undergraduate or graduate level, but will have a solid record of teaching undergraduate classes.
- Preference will be given to nominees who are in the middle years of their academic careers, Professor Step I through V, inclusive.
- Preference will be given to nominees who have received a terminal degree in their field at least 10 years prior to being nominated for the Faculty Prize.

Selection Criteria

In evaluating nominees, criteria for consideration by the Faculty Prize Selection Committee include an exemplary record in teaching undergraduate students, extraordinary accomplishment in research or creative activity, and evidence of university and/or community service, as described in the nomination:

- Contributions to undergraduate education (e.g., impacting students' lives in a significant way)
- Approaches to teaching (i.e., through various engagement methods with students, curricular innovation, or significant impact such practices might have at a local or national level)
- Size, number, and diversity of classes taught
- Influence on the professor's field of research, including notable outcomes of the research or creative activity; work in more than one discipline or specialty; and national or international recognition
- Evidence of service at the department and/or campus level, as well as dedication to UCLA
- Support from colleagues
- Demonstrated commitment to creating a learning environment that embraces inclusive excellence.

Selection Process

Chaired by the previous year's prize recipient, the Gold Shield Faculty Prize Selection Committee includes up to seven UCLA faculty members (representing north and south campus disciplines), an undergraduate Gold Shield Scholar, and up to three Gold Shield representatives. The Selection Committee will review the nominations over a 6-8-week period following the nomination deadline. The prize recipient will be selected by the end of April and announced in May 2027.

Nomination Instructions and Checklist

Nominations must include two parts submitted digitally as PDFs:

PART I: Nomination Materials

Please compile the following into a **single**, clearly organized PDF:

- ☐ NOMINATION LETTER
A letter (maximum five pages) outlining what makes the nominee's teaching, research or creative work, and service truly distinguished. The letter should clearly demonstrate why the candidate is deserving of this award.
- ☐ CURRICULUM VITAE
A concise CV (maximum five pages) that includes degrees earned, academic appointments, teaching experience, teaching awards, publications, service, and creative work. Please emphasize achievements related to undergraduate education.
- ☐ SUMMARY OF THE PROFESSOR'S TEACHING RECORD
A summary or table of course titles, years taught, approximate enrollment, and student evaluations/ratings **for the last five years**. Please include numerical ratings for the nominee along with average department ratings for comparison.
- ☐ LETTERS OF SUPPORT
Include a minimum of three and a maximum of five letters from faculty colleagues familiar with the nominee's work—either at UCLA or other institutions. While additional letters may be submitted, those from faculty peers in the nominee's field will carry the most weight. Letters should speak to the nominee's excellence in teaching, research, and service, with specific examples tied to the award criteria.

Part II: Student Commentary

This should be submitted as a **separate PDF**:

- ☐ STUDENT COMMENTS/COMMENTARY
Include student commentary from the **last five undergraduate courses** taught. These comments are an important part of the evaluation process. Please provide full sets of unedited student feedback (rather than excerpts or summaries).

Nomination Submission Instructions

Complete nominations (the nomination materials and student commentary) will include two **PDFs labeled with the nominees' name**. Emailed submissions are to be addressed to Sandra Hwang: shwang@support.ucla.edu and must be received by **5:00 pm, February 12, 2027**. Late submissions will not be accepted.

FAQs

Who can nominate a professor for the Faculty Prize?

Any UCLA colleague may submit a nomination.

Does the nomination need to come from the Department Chair?

No. A faculty member from within or outside the nominee's department may submit the nomination.

Can a department submit more than one nominee in a single year?

Yes.

Can a professor be nominated more than once?

Yes. A professor may be nominated again if they were not selected in a previous year. However, no nominee will be considered more than twice.

Can a professor receive the Faculty Prize more than once?

No. Once a professor has received the Faculty Prize, they are no longer eligible for future nominations.

Do letters of support need to be written by current UCLA faculty?

Not necessarily. Letters may come from colleagues (who formerly worked with the nominee while at UCLA) or experts in the field who have firsthand knowledge of the nominee's contributions to teaching, service to the university, and their broader impact. While past nominations have included letters from former students and others, the most weight is given to letters written by faculty colleagues who have direct experience with the nominee.

Student commentary can be dozens of pages long—do you really want all of it?

Yes. Student commentary plays an important role in the selection process. Rather than edited or excerpted feedback, Gold Shield prefers a full picture of student comments for the last five courses taught. To keep the main submission manageable, please compile these comments into a separate PDF.

Should all nomination materials be submitted at once, or separately?

Please submit two organized PDFs together by email:

1. One for the main nomination materials
2. One for student commentary

Submissions are due by EOD, February 13, 2027, emailed to Sandra Hwang: shwang@support.ucla.edu

Questions?

Additional questions may be directed to:

Sandra Hwang, Gold Shield Faculty Prize Coordinator, at shwang@support.ucla.edu or Faculty Prize Chair at facultyprize@gmail.com.

GOLD SHIELD FACULTY PRIZE RECIPIENTS

2026 – Leisy Abrego, Chicana/o and Central American Studies
2025 – Amy Rowat, Integrative Biology & Physiology
2024 – David D. Kim, European Languages & Transcultural Studies
2023 – Anastassia Alexandrova, Chemistry & Biochemistry
2021 – Adriana Galván, Psychology and Dean of Undergraduate Education
2020 – Janet O'Shea, World Arts and Cultures/Dance
2019 – Paul Barber, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
2018 – Daniel Fessler, Anthropology
2017 – Daniel Blumstein, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology
2016 – Charlene Villaseñor Black, Chicana/o Studies and Art History
2015 – Neil Garg, Chemistry & Biochemistry
2014 – Brenda Stevenson, History
2013 – Luisa Iruela-Arispe, Molecular, Cell and Developmental Biology
2012 – Kevin Terraciano, History
2011 – Matthew Lieberman, Psychology
2010 – David Gere, World Arts and Culture
2009 – Robin Garrell, Chemistry, Biochemistry
2008 – Alicia Gaspar de Alba, Chair, Cesar E. Chavez Chicano Studies
2007 – William J. Kaiser, Electrical Engineering
2006 – Robert N. Watson, English
2004 – Andrea Ghez, Physics and Astronomy
2002 – Richard B. Kaner, Chemistry and Biochemistry
2000 – Utpal Banerjee, Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology
1998 – Bob Goldberg, Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology
1996 – Peter Narins, Physiological Science
1994 – Albert A. Braunmuller, English
1992 – J. William Schopf, Earth and Space Sciences
1990 – Jeffrey Alexander, Sociology
1988 – Patricia Marks Greenfield, Psychology
1986 – Michael E. Jung, Chemistry and Biochemistry