



The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA®
Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deans, Directors, and Chairs – Norman Campus

FROM: André-Denis G. Wright
Senior Vice President and Provost, Norman Campus

Michael R. Markham
Interim Dean, OU Honors College

DATE: October 14, 2024

SUBJECT: Nominations for Presidential Teaching Fellows in Honors College

Presidential Teaching Fellows in Honors

The Presidential Teaching Fellows (PTF) program in the Honors College aims to draw faculty from across campus to teach Honors undergraduate courses. Annual stipends are provided to professors who have demonstrated a strong commitment to innovative teaching and mentoring of undergraduates. Presidential Teaching Fellows will teach two Honors courses per semester for a term of one year.

All tenured and ranked renewable term faculty from all departments and colleges at OU are eligible to apply, with the approval of their home departments. Faculty who have already received a Presidential Teaching Fellowship in the Honors College will be eligible to reapply in the second year of a two-year hiatus after receiving a fellowship.

Description of Fellowship

The Presidential Teaching Fellowship enables a mutually beneficial exchange between the Honors College and faculty from other parts of campus. Each academic year, two fellows will teach interdisciplinary courses with innovative components to highly motivated undergraduate students. Fellows will have additional Honors College service expectations, such as giving one presentation or other event for students, leading an informal reading group, supervising undergraduate research projects, serving on selected committees, and participating in other College events, such as Undergraduate Research Day. The PTF program is crucial to the Honors College mission because it contributes to dynamic conversations about research and teaching among students and faculty colleagues.

The teaching load will be 2-2. Fellows will usually be expected to teach one Perspectives course and one Colloquium each semester, depending on Honors College needs in a particular year.

The Perspectives Course is an interdisciplinary, freshman/sophomore level seminar that explores a broad issue (or issues) from different perspectives. This course requires at least 15 pages of writing, and students are assigned to work with Honors College writing assistants throughout the semester. Faculty members are expected to work closely with the writing assistants to articulate goals and expectations for critical review of written work. Capped at 19 students.

The Colloquium is an interdisciplinary discussion-based seminar appropriate for juniors and seniors, focused on a topic within the professor's area of expertise. This course requires at least 30 pages of writing per student, a project involving library research or other independent research, and challenging reading assignments. Capped at 22 students.

Fellows will receive a stipend of \$20,000 in addition to their regular pay. In addition, the home department of each Fellow will receive \$24,000 to ensure a continuation of the courses that each selected Fellow would have taught.

Criteria for Selection

Presidential Teaching Fellows in Honors are those faculty members who have a capacity for stimulating interdisciplinary dialogue and who connect their professional activities to the students they teach and mentor. These professors have demonstrated inclusive excellence in undergraduate teaching and have a record of inspiring and mentoring their students. Proposed classes must be accessible and engaging to undergraduate students with a range of majors.

Application materials must include:

- The applicant's full curriculum vitae.
- The most recent three years of faculty evaluations (or since beginning at the University if the applicant has been at the University less than three years).
- A statement detailing the HON prefix courses the faculty member could offer if selected as a Presidential Teaching Fellow. The statement should include a discussion of the types of readings and other assignments that would potentially be included in each course. The descriptions should be consistent with the two categories of Honors College courses, Perspectives and Colloquium.
- Two letters of recommendation. One of these should come from a faculty colleague outside the Honors College and one from a former student. The letters should discuss the applicant's record of teaching and student mentorship in addition to speaking to other qualities that make the person a strong candidate. The candidate's department chair must also submit a brief statement of support that demonstrates understanding of the details of the arrangement.

Selection Procedure and Timeline

The President's Office in conjunction with the Senior Vice President and Provost of the Norman Campus and the Dean of the Honors College will review the number of vacant Presidential Teaching Fellowships in Honors and will issue a call for applications in the Fall semester. Applications may be initiated by individual faculty members (tenured or ranked renewable term faculty only). Complete packages should be submitted by chairs, directors, or Committee A to the appropriate dean.

Deans must forward the nomination packages as a single PDF with their own comments to the Senior Vice President and Provost by way of the [Presidential Teaching Fellowship Dropbox folder](#) no later than November 15, 2024. The selection committee will make its recommendation to the Senior Vice President and Provost by December 13, 2024. Recipients will be notified by January 15, 2025.

The Norman campus selection committee will consist of the President or his designate, the Senior Vice President and Provost or his designate, the Dean of the Honors College, two Honors College faculty members, and two upper-division Honors College students.

For questions, contact the Honors College Director of Finance and Administration, Candace Coker, ccoker@ou.edu.