

2025-26 Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in Life Sciences

Revised November 2025

Office of the Vice Dean, Research and Health Science Education, Temerty Faculty of Medicine will award four annual Undergraduate Teaching Awards in Life Sciences in four categories. The purpose of these awards is to honour excellence and sustained contributions by faculty members in undergraduate Arts and Science teaching and the undergraduate experience in Life Sciences. The awards carry a cash value of \$1,000 each and will be presented at the Temerty Faculty of Medicine Annual Education Achievement Celebration.

Categories:

1. Excellence in undergraduate teaching in life sciences

This award is for excellence in teaching, coordination, and/or development of undergraduate lecture or seminar courses in Arts and Science offered by the Basic Science Departments in the Temerty Faculty of Medicine.

2. Excellence in undergraduate laboratory teaching in life sciences

This award is for excellence in teaching, coordination, and/or development of undergraduate laboratory-based courses in Arts and Science offered by the Basic Science Departments in the Temerty Faculty of Medicine.

3. Excellence in linking undergraduate teaching to research in life sciences

This award is for excellence, mentorship, and innovative methods that link undergraduate teaching to experiential research opportunities such as research project courses, summer student research projects, or equivalent programs.

4. Sustained Excellence and Innovation in Life Sciences Education

This award recognizes sustained contributions (at least 15 years of all undergraduate appointments as of December of application year) to *any* aspect of undergraduate education, including:

- Undergraduate student supervision and mentoring
- Curriculum development
- Regular support of departmental, faculty and university undergraduate activities
- Undergraduate program administration (as applicable)

Eligibility:

Eligibility extends to all faculty members who hold full-time appointments in Basic Science Departments or Institutes in the Temerty Faculty of Medicine and teach in Life Sciences undergraduate courses and/or research projects in Arts and Science.

Nomination:

Candidates for these awards must be nominated by a student, a former student, or another faculty member through a Departmental/Institute Undergraduate Program office; self-nominations are not accepted. A previous winner may be nominated for an Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in Life Sciences Award in any category only after a period of five (5) years.

Overall Award Criteria

1. **Excellent teaching and communication skills**
 - Quality of teaching
 - Quantity of teaching
 - Evidence of self-development in teaching methods

2. **Demonstrated ability to engage students and develop transferrable skills**
 - Encourages interest in and enthusiasm for the subject
 - Displays good rapport with students
 - Leads students to think critically, analytically, and independently, and to organize their own learning
 - Supports the development of scientific communication skills, if applicable

3. **Effective use of appropriate teaching resources and instructional methodologies**

4. **Incorporation and/or discovery of innovative, creative and evidence-based teaching methods**
 - Incorporates creative and evidence-based teaching methods into their practice
 - Engages in formal research in the field of teaching and learning, if applicable

5. **Evidence of student mentorship and acting as a suitable role model**

6. **Letters of support**
 - Strength of support
 - Evidence of excellence
 - Evidence of impact to student's future career goals, if applicable

Excellence in Undergraduate Laboratory Teaching and Excellence in Linking of Undergraduate Teaching to Research in Life Sciences Awards

In addition to criteria 1 to 6

7. **Laboratory and research skill development**
 - Fosters the development of hands-on research skills
 - Fosters the development of data gathering and analysis skills

Sustained Excellence Award Only

In addition to criteria 1 to 6

7. **Sustained contributions** (at least 15 years of all undergraduate appointments as of December of the application year) to any aspect of undergraduate education, including:
 - Undergraduate student supervision and mentoring
 - Curriculum development
 - Regular support of departmental, faculty and university undergraduate activities
 - Undergraduate program administration (if applicable)

Nomination Process:

The primary nominator (a student, former student, or faculty member other than the nominee) will fill out and submit the nomination form and inform the nominee of the nomination. The nominator and nominee are jointly responsible to ensure that all **required** documentation, as listed on the nomination form, are submitted. Entire nomination package should include, in order:

- Completed nomination form
- Summary of the nominee's contributions to teaching (max. 2 pages)
- Nominee's statement of Teaching Philosophy (max. 2 pages)
- Supporting letters (max. 1-2 pages each) from:
 - * Department/Institute Chair/Director (or designate)
 - * Students (current or former students, (min. of 2 and max. of 4)
 - * Letters from colleagues (max. 2)
- Summaries of student evaluations of teaching/course materials
- Current abridged Curriculum Vita (max. 10 pages) which includes a full description of the contribution to undergraduate teaching in Life Sciences and accomplishments relevant to the award eligibility criteria, including:
 - Relevant undergraduate teaching
 - Teaching awards for undergraduate teaching
 - Undergraduate students supervised (dates and projects)

The entire nomination package should not exceed 30 pages and should be formatted as a single PDF document. The nominator should email the completed nomination package to medicine.hse@utoronto.ca.

Deadline Date: Monday, February 27, 2026

Selection Process:

Nominees' files will be reviewed by the Office of the Vice Dean, Research and Health Science Education and Research Adjudication Committee - a panel of selected undergraduate students and faculty members.

Previous Winners: Please visit the RHSE website to see a list of all previous award winners.