

UF/IFAS Distinguished Professor Nominations

The title of Distinguished Professor is fundamentally different from other faculty awards at the University of Florida. Although procedurally linked with the tenure and promotion process, the University does not permit self-nominations. Nominations are to be made at the discretion of the deans. The title of Distinguished Professor is an honor, reserved for a small subset of faculty members who have had outstanding success and impact, and who have attained a level of distinction exceeding that of full professors.

The title of Distinguished Professor acknowledges an exceptional record of achievement in the areas of teaching, research and service that is recognized both nationally and internationally. An exceptional record of achievement is one that places the candidate at the top of the discipline in at least one area with a record of significant distinction in the other two areas. Evidence of national and international recognition and distinction is paramount. The title of Distinguished Professor is a rare and special achievement.

IFAS will use the following criteria and process to proactively identify potential Distinguished Professor nominees and advance highly qualified applicants for consideration.

Criteria. As part of the IFAS guidelines, IFAS nominees must exhibit outstanding and sustained accomplishments as demonstrated by the following criteria:

- For nominees with at least 0.2 FTE research appointment, nationally and internationally recognized research accomplishments and leadership as documented by high quality and quantity of refereed scholarly journal publications; a sustained and well-supported sponsored research program; a sustained level of Master's and Ph.D. degree program productivity; and evidence of research impacts through citations of their publications or other evidence as appropriate to the field of study.
- For nominees with at least 0.2 FTE teaching appointment, exceptional teaching performance at the undergraduate and/or graduate levels; development of state-of-the-art courses and use of innovative teaching techniques; and evidence of scholarship in teaching.
- For nominees with at least 0.2 FTE extension appointment, proactive participation in extension priorities and initiative teams through the planning (needs assessment and setting measurable objectives), implementation (marketing and delivery), and evaluation of programs; documentation of the scholarship and application of extension programs by publishing in appropriate venues (e.g., EDIS, trade journals, Journal of Extension, videos, curricula, etc.); and, evidence of program impacts (adoption of new practices and/or changes in social, environmental, and/or economic conditions).
- For all nominees, high quality of student mentorship at the undergraduate and/or graduate student level.
- For all nominees, effective mentorship of faculty with less experience.

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- For all nominees, national and international leadership and recognition of their distinction. This recognition is evidenced with honors and awards, selection for service on national review panels, editorship of national or international journals, or other recognitions. Such recognition should be appropriate to the candidate's discipline and assignment, and the most appropriate form of recognition will likely vary greatly among faculty members.
- For all nominees, a record of strong professional service, both within and outside the university.
- For all nominees, a record of performance significantly beyond the expectations for a full professor over multiple years.

Process. The IFAS deans will solicit recommendations for candidates for the Distinguished Professor rank from IFAS unit leaders. Prior to forwarding information for candidates the unit leader should confirm the candidate's willingness to develop the materials necessary for full consideration by the University (a tenure and promotion packet as required by University guidelines). Unit leaders should submit a current T&P packet of any candidate, along with a brief (two-page maximum) description of how the candidate meets the IFAS criteria.

The IFAS Deans shall convene an advisory assessment committee to assess packets of candidates. Assessment committee members will be selected from distinguished professors, exceptional full professors, eminent scholars, assistant or associate Deans, or others of similar academic background. The committee will provide the college-level assessment. Following assessment, the IFAS Deans will decide which individual(s) may meet the criteria for Distinguished Professor. The lead dean (based on faculty FTE assignment) will contact any faculty member identified as a potential nominee and their unit leader.

The unit leader will solicit external peer letters of evaluation for the Deans' potential nominee. The assessment committee will view the peer letters of the potential nominee. The Deans will evaluate each packet and associated peer letters and decide which individual(s) to nominate. Once selected, the Deans will notify the nominee(s) and their unit leader(s). The nominee(s) will update and upload the packet following UF Tenure and Promotion guidelines, and the unit leader's letter of endorsement and external peer letters will be uploaded. The nominee's unit leader will then conduct a statewide assessment. The packet will include the cover sheet containing the statewide and college assessments.

The Academic Personnel Board will review packets of nominees. Although there are a large number of IFAS faculty members who may warrant recognition, it is likely that only a small number of faculty members from IFAS would be awarded the honor of Distinguished Professor in any year.