

2026 Call for Nominations

Distinguished University Professor

Case Western Reserve University awards the honorific title of Distinguished University Professor to full-time, tenured full professors who have a distinguished academic record demonstrating extraordinary research/scholarship, teaching, and service. The designation of an individual as a Distinguished University Professor represents the highest honor that the University bestows upon a member of its professoriate. It will be granted to no more than five percent of the University's tenured faculty.

An individual given this honor will receive a special Distinguished University Professor Medallion at Convocation, a \$25,000 one-time grant to support academic work, a \$5,000 permanent increase in annual salary, and membership on the President's Distinguished University Professor Advisory Council.

Guidelines describing attributes required of a University Professor and the nomination and selection processes are detailed below. Please also visit the Distinguished University Professor website at www.case.edu/universityprofessor.

Required

Attributes:

Stellar academic record that demonstrates excellence and impact of contributions and accomplishments in teaching, research/scholarship and service within the respective academic discipline and unit;

Continual, uniform and coherent record of outstanding accomplishment and the obligation of continued outstanding contributions;

High level of personal and collegial respect, held in high esteem both within the University and the individual's larger professional community;

Outstanding national and international stature and distinction within the discipline as demonstrated through internal recognition at the university and especially external recognition through major awards, prizes, medals, shows, exhibits, membership in National Academies, etc.;

Significant intellectual and academic contributions impacting and advancing the broader University community (i.e., outside of the discipline and department) through interdisciplinary research and scholarship, collaborative teaching and service that transcend traditional academic fields and disciplinary lines, distinguished service within and for the University.

Nomination

Process: Deans will establish candidate nomination and screening processes within their schools/College and announce those processes by September 12, 2025. Each School/College may submit one new or updated nomination each year. Schools with more than 100 tenured and tenure-track faculty members may submit an additional nomination for each additional 100 tenured and tenure-track faculty members. Approximately two appointments will be made annually. A summary of the nomination and screening processes used by each school and the College can be found on the Distinguished University Professor web site.

Nomination dossiers should include:

- the nominee's complete curriculum vitae.
- a letter of nomination written by the dean that describes the candidate's record of achievement, its impact, and the reasons this recognition is well deserved. This letter should include an explanation of the distinction and significance of the honors and awards the candidate has received.
- letters of support from three (3) external references who have first-hand knowledge of the nominee's qualifications and contributions, attesting to the candidate's standing and productivity and to the quality and impact of the candidate's scholarship.

Selection

Process: A five-member, ad hoc committee of distinguished faculty will review all nominations and make recommendations to the Provost and President. The committee will be comprised entirely of Distinguished University Professors – appointed by the Provost in consultation with the deans. In all cases, the President shall make the final award and appointment with the approval of the Board of Trustees.

Deans should email the nomination(s) to Deanna DePenti no later than December 1, 2025, To: deanna.depenti@case.edu, with the subject line: Distinguished University Professor Program [school/College] Nomination