

The Office of the Vice President for Research, Scholarship and Creative Endeavors
Presents
the 2024 University Research Excellence Awards
Call for Nominations

University Research Excellence Career Award: \$10,000

University Creative Endeavor Award: \$6,000

University Research Paper Excellence Award: \$5,000

The Office of the Vice President for Research, Scholarship and Creative Endeavors presents the University Research Excellence Awards. These awards were established to recognize the outstanding contributions The University of Texas at Austin faculty and research staff make to UT's research community. Awards are given in three categories: the University Research Excellence Career Award (\$10,000), the University Creative Endeavor Award (\$6,000), and the University Research Paper Excellence Award (\$5,000).

Submission Deadline: May 7, 2024 at 5:00 PM Central Time

Submit Nominations Here: <https://utexas.infoready4.com/#freeformCompetitionDetail/1930593>

University Research Excellence Career Award:

The **University Research Excellence Career Award** recognizes successful, currently active researchers with outstanding career achievements in research activity, publication record and scholarly impact.

Nominee must be UT Austin faculty (tenured or professional track) or permanent full-time research staff member with a current appointment at the time of nomination and award. *UT students, postdocs, research associates, visitors and temporary staff are not eligible for this award.*

Criteria:

The following criteria will be considered in the selection of the University Research Excellence Career Award recipient.

1. **Overall Impact on the Field:** Documented evidence of outstanding research accomplishments and impact of their work on advancing knowledge and understanding in their respective field(s) of research. Demonstrated impact of the nominee's work through their contributions to publications, educational programs, and training of students and/or postdoctoral fellows.
2. **Body of Work:** Documented national and/or international recognition for excellence in their area of specialization, or in interdisciplinary areas that include their specialties. Research achievements that advanced knowledge, opened new avenues of exploration and understanding, or had impact in a real-world capacity.
3. **Leadership and Collaboration:** Evidence of fostering collaboration, mentorship of other researchers, or the development of the next generation of scholars within the research community. Contributions to the broader research community, such as leadership in professional organizations, university service and leadership, and public outreach.

Materials to be Submitted by the Nominator:

The submission materials for the **University Research Excellence Career Award** should provide a comprehensive and compelling overview of the nominee's contributions to their field throughout their career.

1. Nominee form to be completed in InfoReady
2. *Nomination Letter*, PDF no more than two (2) pages.
 - a. A letter outlining the nominee's qualifications for the award, detailing how the candidate meets the criteria described above. The letter should provide an overview of the nominee's career, highlighting key achievements, contributions, and impact on the field. Include specific examples of the nominee's exceptional research, leadership, collaboration, and contributions to their field. No more than two (2) pages.
3. *Research Statement*, PDF no more than two (2) pages.
 - a. A detailed statement from the nominee summarizing their research philosophy, key discoveries, and the overarching impact of their research career. This statement should articulate the nominee's approach to research, major contributions to The University of Texas, and the significance of their work in advancing the field
4. *Letters of Support*, PDF no more than two (2) pages per letter.
 - a. Two letters from colleagues, collaborators, mentees, or other individuals familiar with the nominee's work from outside UT, providing insights into their impact on the field and contributions to the research community. These letters should be specific, highlighting achievements and the nominee's influence on others.
5. *Documentation of Achievements*, PDF document that contains the following, no page limit.
 - a. List of top ten (10) publications demonstrating the nominee's most significant contributions (e.g., journal articles, books, conference papers).
 - b. List of additional documentation supporting the nominee's achievements, such as news articles, press releases, or official recognitions.
 - c. List of awards or honors received in acknowledgment of the nominee's research excellence.
 - d. List of evidence showing the nominee's contributions to education and outreach, such as documentation of involvement in educational programs, training initiatives, or public engagement activities.
6. *Optional Additional Materials*: Any other materials that further illustrate the nominee's impact, such as videos, multimedia presentations, or testimonials.

University Creative Endeavor Award:

The **University Creative Endeavor Award** recognizes distinct, exceptionally creative work with extraordinary impact and significance to the field of study performed by an established researcher. This award is not for lifetime achievement, but for a single contribution or a series of creative endeavors.

Nominee must be UT Austin faculty (tenured/tenure-track or professional track) and/or permanent full-time research staff with a current appointment at the time of nomination and award. *UT students, postdocs, research associates, visitors and temporary staff are not eligible for this award.*

Creative endeavors typically go beyond traditional research methods by incorporating elements of imagination, artistic expression and unconventional thinking. Creative endeavors often seek to generate new perspectives, challenge existing paradigms and produce outcomes that are not only intellectually rigorous but also contribute to the broader realms of creativity, culture and innovation.

Examples of creative endeavors might include merging technology and art to explore new forms of expression, incorporation of storytelling and narrative approaches in social science applications, exploring new sonic landscapes and challenging traditional notions of musical composition, using performative research methods to communicate and explore cultural phenomena and more. In essence, a creative endeavor is about pushing the boundaries of conventional thinking, embracing diverse perspectives and fostering innovation to create a richer and more dynamic understanding of the world.

Criteria:

The following criteria will be considered in the selection of University Creative Endeavor Award recipient.

1. **Creativity and Innovation:** Nominated creative activity demonstrates originality and creativity by introducing new concepts, methodologies, or approaches to the nominee's area of specialization, or in interdisciplinary areas that include their specialties.
2. **Significance to the Field:** Demonstrated impact of the creative endeavor on the nominee's field of research. Consideration given for how the work addresses current challenges, advances knowledge, or opens new avenues of exploration.
3. **Timeliness and Relevance:** Demonstrated timeliness and relevance of creative activity to contemporary issues or challenges in the nominee's field. Consideration given to whether the work addresses current trends, gaps, or emerging topics.
4. **Recognition and Awards:** Consideration given to any recognition or awards received for the specific creative activity. Assessing the prestige and significance of these accolades in the academic and creative community.

Materials to be Submitted by the Nominator:

Nomination materials for the **University Creative Endeavor Award** should effectively communicate the unique and innovative nature of the nominee's creative activity. To reiterate, this award is not for lifetime achievement, but for a single contribution or a series of creative activities.

1. Nominee form to be completed in InfoReady
2. *Nomination Letter*, PDF no more than two (2) pages.
 - a. A letter outlining why the nominee and their creative endeavor deserve the award, detailing how they meet the criteria described above. Emphasize the creativity, originality, and innovative aspects of the activity. Provide context for the activity's significance within its field and potential broader impacts.
3. *Research Statement*, PDF no more than two (2) pages.
 - a. A statement from the nominee describing the motivation, inspiration, and creative process behind the activity. Emphasize how the activity pushes the boundaries of conventional research and introduces innovative elements.
4. *Creative Endeavor Documentation*, PDF no more than three (3) pages.
 - a. An overview of the creative activity for a non-expert audience. Include details on objectives, methodologies, experimental or creative outputs, and any other unique aspects that set it apart

from traditional research endeavors. Use visuals, multimedia elements, or other artifacts to effectively convey the activity's creative and innovative nature.

5. *Letter of Support*, PDF no more than two (2) pages.
 - a. One letter from colleague, collaborator, or other individual familiar with the nominee and nominated creative activity. Letter should attest to the significance and impact of the activity and how it has addressed challenges, advanced knowledge, or opened new avenues of exploration. No more than two (2) pages.
6. *Recognition and Awards*, no page limit.
 - a. Documentation of any awards or recognition specifically related to the nominated creative activity. Provide details on the prestige and significance of these accolades within the academic and creative communities.
7. *Optional Additional Materials*: Any additional materials, such as video presentations, interactive demonstrations, or testimonials, that further illustrate the creativity and impact of the nominated activity.

University Research Paper Excellence Award

The **University Research Paper Excellence Award** recognizes the outstanding scholarship and creativity UT faculty and full-time staff members show through peer-reviewed scholarly papers.

Nominations must be peer-reviewed scholarly papers published in the preceding academic year (Sept. 1, 2022 – Aug. 31, 2023) authored by UT Austin faculty (tenured/tenure-track or professional track) and/or permanent full-time research staff with a current appointment at the time of nomination and award. The nominated author must be the first author of the nominated paper or if not, must confirm responsibility for specific aspects of the paper. The nominated paper must describe research or creative activity conducted by the author while employed by UT. *UT students, postdocs, research associates, visitors and temporary staff are not eligible for this award.*

Criteria:

The following criteria will be considered in the selection of **University Research Paper Excellence Award** recipient.

1. **Originality and Innovation:** Does the paper demonstrate a novel and unique approach to addressing the identified research problem? To what extent does the paper introduce innovative concepts, methodologies, or solutions that distinguish it from existing research?
2. **Significance of the Problem:** How significant and relevant is the research problem addressed in the paper to the academic and/or practical community? Consideration given to the potential impact of the research on the field and its broader implications.

Materials to be Submitted by the Nominator:

Nomination materials for the **University Research Paper Excellence Award** should effectively communicate the unique and innovative nature of the nominee's creative research activity/activities.

1. Nominee form to be completed in InfoReady
2. *Nomination Letter*, PDF no more than two (2) pages.

- a. A letter outlining the specific contributions to the paper made by the nominee and why this paper deserves the award, detailing how they meet the criteria described above. Provide context for the paper's significance within its field and potential broader impacts.
 - b. The paper must be published in a peer reviewed journal or have been accepted through peer reviewed conference proceedings. For papers accepted through peer-reviewed conference proceedings, the nomination letter must include information regarding what percentage of submitted conference proceedings are typically accepted by the conference.
3. *Nominated Paper*: Submit a final-form PDF of the paper and include its unique document identifier (DOI).
4. *Author Information*, PDF no more than one (1) page.
 - a. Brief author bio including relevant information explaining the author's qualifications to write on the paper topic.
5. *Peer Review Reports*: Provide peer review reports or summaries of feedback received during the review process. Highlight how the author addressed any concerns or suggestions raised by the reviewers.
6. *Recognition and Awards*: Documentation of any awards or recognition specifically related to the nominated paper. Provide details on the prestige and significance of these accolades within the academic and creative communities.