



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

Paul Gilmore
Dean, OU Honors College

DATE: November 12, 2025

SUBJECT: Applications for Presidential Teaching Fellows in Honors College

Presidential Teaching Fellows in Honors

The Presidential Teaching Fellows (PTF) program in the Honors College provides faculty from across campus the opportunity to exclusively teach Honors undergraduate courses during their tenure. Faculty fellows receive stipends in recognition of their strong commitment to teaching and mentoring undergraduates and for supporting the development of innovative interdisciplinary classes that will further their pedagogy in years to come.

All tenured and ranked renewable term faculty from all departments and colleges at OU are eligible to apply, with the approval of their home or primary 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. **As many as 10 Fellowships may be awarded this year.**

Description of Fellowship

Each year, the Presidential Teaching Fellowship recognizes some of the most effective and student-oriented faculty across campus by providing them with a stipend-supported leave from their regular teaching duties to teach exclusively Honors courses. With the support of their department, faculty can apply for one to four semester appointments. The President and Provost convene the fellows to create a community of dedicated undergraduate teachers committed to interdisciplinary and experiential education. After their appointment ends, faculty members will continue to hold the title of Honors Presidential Fellow and will be invited to regularly teach Honors courses. The PTF program enables the Honors College to expand its reach across the University, offering faculty the chance to develop innovative classes and pedagogical practices that will potentially serve all undergraduate students.

The teaching load for each faculty fellow will correspond with their normal teaching load in their home department or two courses, whichever is less. For each course they teach, each faculty member will receive a stipend of \$5,000. In addition, their home department will receive a payment of \$7,500 per course to defray expenses related to filling any gaps in course offerings created by the faculty member's absence. Faculty will also be expected to be engaged with students outside the classroom through office hours and Honors College programming.

There are three different kinds of courses faculty fellows can propose to teach—either (or both) of the two Honors College seminars (Perspectives and Colloquia) or an Honors course in their department. We encourage faculty to take this opportunity to imagine their dream courses, to consider innovative approaches to engaging some of our brightest students on topics related to faculty interests and research in a way that enables students across all fields to participate and learn. Working with the Center for Faculty Excellence, the Honors College provides support to faculty fellows in designing and refining their courses, with support from the Honors College Writing Fellows. Preference will be given to classes with an interdisciplinary focus offering the greatest possible reach in terms of student audience. We also encourage faculty to propose classes that could include service-learning or an embedded study abroad or a domestic study away component, wherein the class would travel, over spring break or at the end of the semester, to explore an area studied in the class.

Honors courses should offer students the chance to develop knowledge, skills, or experiences they would most likely not have access to in a regular class. Students are to have extensive contact and work closely with the faculty member leading the class. Honors courses should focus less on the content of knowledge and more on the production of new knowledge and practices. Faculty often take previously taught courses and revise them by providing more depth and/or breadth. Departmental Honors classes should incorporate a significant amount of discussion and hands-on activities that engage students actively in their learning and, to the extent possible, should be designed to appeal to a variety of majors. The Perspectives Course is an interdisciplinary, freshman/sophomore level seminar, capped at 19 students, that explores a broad issue (or issues) from different perspectives. The Colloquium is an interdisciplinary discussion-based seminar appropriate for juniors and seniors, capped at 22 students, focused on a topic within the professor's area of expertise. This course requires a substantial research or creative project. Both Perspectives and Colloquium classes regularly are approved for General Education humanities (or social science) credit, and the Honors College will support faculty in applying to PACGEO for certification in those or other areas.

Note: While Presidential Fellows are committed to teaching exclusively Honors courses during their tenure, we invite all faculty to propose Honors coursework as part of their normal teaching load.

Criteria for Selection

The Presidential Teaching Fellowship recognizes and celebrates faculty members who have a capacity for stimulating interdisciplinary dialogue and who seek to deeply connect their research to the students they teach and mentor. These professors have demonstrated 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 and should be taught as seminars.

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 their proposed classes and listing the semester(s) they would offer them. The statement should include a discussion of the types of readings and other assignments that would potentially be included in each course.
- Two letters of recommendation. At least one should be from a former student. A letter from Committee A or a faculty peer is also acceptable. 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 application 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 **December 1, 2025**. The selection committee will make its recommendation to the Senior Vice President and Provost by December 19, 2025. Recipients will be notified by January 15, 2026.

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

For questions, contact Paul Gilmore at paul.gilmore@ou.edu.