

College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor Nomination Process

October 3, 2025

The College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professorship is an honorific title, not a new faculty rank. This award serves to honor full professor colleagues who have excelled in teaching, service, and research/creative activity, and whose work has demonstrated significant impact on their fields, students, college and university, and/or the public. It is essential that such professorships be reserved for the most distinguished faculty. Therefore, no more than 10% of the total number of full professors in the College of Arts and Sciences may hold this title at any one time.

To be eligible, professors must not already hold a titled position, such as Eminent Scholar, Distinguished University Professor, or an endowed chair or professorship, and will have generally served at full rank for at least five years at Ohio State or another peer university. Eligible professors must be active and respected scholars in their field of specialization, with records of sustained and significant productivity throughout their careers, including the years at full rank. They also must have a record of excellence in teaching and outstanding service to their departments, college, university, profession, and/or the community. In evaluating and prioritizing these areas, reviewers will keep in mind the diversity of faculty activities across the college as well as the trajectory of individual faculty members' careers and the areas in which they have focused their efforts. Within the context of this holistic review process, evidence of distinction could include, but is not limited to, the following:

- elected position in a prominent professional association or national academy
- significant external or college/university awards for teaching and mentorship, research and creative activity, and/or outreach and service
- leadership in establishing a nationally recognized program or initiative
- a major prize from a professional organization
- editorship of a major professional journal or book series



NOMINATION PROCESS

Nominations for a College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professorship come from department chairs and school directors, the divisional deans, or the dean, and will consist of a CV and letter of nomination (three page maximum) describing the candidate's qualifications and providing examples of the impact of the candidate's efforts in all areas of their faculty duties. Three letters of support, at least two of which are external, should be used to provide supporting evidence. An ad hoc committee of six current ASC Distinguished Professors, Eminent Scholars or faculty with endowed chair positions from all divisions will be convened by the associate dean for faculty affairs to carry out an initial review. The faculty review panel will forward its recommendation to the ASC Deans' Council, which will review the nomination and make a vote on awarding the honorific.

Newly appointed distinguished professors will receive a one-time permanent \$2,500 addition to their base pay. All distinguished professors will hold the honorific title "College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor of [area of specialization]." Subject to continued excellent performance as documented in annual reviews, faculty will retain this title until such time as they leave or retire from the university, are appointed as a Distinguished University Professor, or are appointed to an endowed chair or professorship.

Please submit nominations by February 1st by email to ascfacultyaffairs@osu.edu (please notify if additional time is needed).