

# University Professorship 2025-27

**Nominations and applications for the special rank of University Professor for the 2025-2027 academic years are now being sought by the Center for Teaching Excellence. Applications should be submitted to the [Center for Teaching Excellence](#) by December 2, 2024.**

Appointment to the prestigious rank of University Professor recognizes extraordinary skill in or commitment to undergraduate teaching with an emphasis on crossing conventional boundaries, interdisciplinary relationships, and a strong commitment to liberal education. Individuals considered for the University Professorship will have demonstrated exceptional ability in challenging and stimulating the intellectual curiosity of undergraduate students.

University Professors hold this special rank for two years. The funding associated with this award supports:

- a one-time **award of \$5,000** to the University Professor
- **\$15,000** total to support the research goals of the University Professor's project
- **\$10,000** total to the University Professor's home department in teaching replacement funds (\$5,000 each year for 2 years)

The University Professorship offers faculty the opportunity to launch a research project that investigates teaching and learning issues that have the potential to improve the University's General Education curriculum. The project should reflect the rich traditions of inquiry found within one or more of the areas that compose these requirements. General Education designations include courses in Intellectual Explorations: Applied Sciences, Fine Arts, Humanities, Physical/Life Science, and Social and Behavioral Sciences. Appropriate Bachelors Degree Designations include the Diversity or International Requirement, provided that they meet the course numbering requirements listed below.

**Course Requirements of the University Professorship:** The proposal must focus on an introductory level General Education course. The application may propose a new course for any of the above areas, or it may focus on reviving an existing General Education course. If a new course is proposed, the expectation is that the University Professor will offer the course for two academic years, during which time it will satisfy one General Education requirements, and after which point the General Education Curriculum Committee will review the course for possible continued General Education credit. The following information must be clearly stated in the proposal:

- The course being proposed is a 1-2000 level course
- Indicate the General Education designation associated with the course
- Course must be 3 credits
- During the term of the professorship, the course must be taught by the University Professor at least once per year
- The University Professor's home department must commit to offering the course at least once per year for three years after the University Professorship term ends.

**Research Requirements of the University Professorship:** In addition to developing and offering a General Education course, the application should propose a research study that will inform future approaches to General Education at the University of Utah. For example, candidates may investigate issues relating (but not limited) to: Persistence in higher education; How General Education courses influence students' exploration and commitment to a major; Effects of innovative course formats on student learning; Role of experiential learning in General Education; Integration of AI into pedagogy; or Building a sense of belonging through General Education coursework. All proposals should include the following:

- A proposal that contains clearly stated research questions and predictions, proposed methodology, data collection and analysis plan, dissemination plan (preference for publication in peer-reviewed journals), and proposed plan for implementing the findings at the University of Utah
- Evidence of IRB submission, if needed

**Selection Procedure for 2025-27 University Professor:**

**Applications** should be submitted to the [Center for Teaching Excellence](#) by **December 2, 2024**. **Applicants must be tenured or tenure-line faculty.**

**Applications:** Fully developed proposals should include the following materials:

1. A complete description (three or more single-spaced pages) describing the University Professor project in detail, including course information and research proposal, dissemination, and implementation plan.
2. Evidence of unusual creativity and success as an undergraduate teacher. Documentation may include numerical summaries and student comments from course evaluations. (Please do not submit raw course evaluations.)
3. A project budget totaling no more than \$15,000, including a brief statement of any additional funds from other sources to be applied to the project.
4. A current curriculum vitae.
5. Letters from the nominee's chairperson and dean indicating their willingness to release the nominee from regular departmental assignments to develop and implement the project, as well as their commitment to offering the course at least once per year for three years after the term of the professorship ends.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR.** A committee formed by the Center for Teaching Excellence will interview finalists early in spring semester and announce its decision after approval by the University Trustees.

If you have questions about the University Professorship, please contact Anne Cook ([anne.cook@utah.edu](mailto:anne.cook@utah.edu))