

Arts & Sciences Outstanding TA Award

<https://www.as.uky.edu/certificate-outstanding-teaching>

This award is given by the College of Arts & Sciences to recognize excellence in undergraduate instruction by Teaching Assistants. Fifteen Teaching Assistants, five per area (Math/Sciences, Social Sciences, Humanities), will receive a certificate and monetary award.

Eligibility

The A&S Outstanding Teaching Certificate is open to:

- Current A&S graduate student teaching assistants in at least their second year of graduate work,
- TAs who were responsible for instruction in some or all of a course offered by the College of Arts & Sciences,
- TAs who taught in courses offered by A&S departments as well as those offered by A&S interdisciplinary programs or through other programs,
- Students who have not previously won the A&S Outstanding TA Award

Please note: The award is for cumulative teaching history, not exclusively for the semesters of the award year.

Nomination Process and Department Selection Criteria

Each A&S department may nominate up to three Teaching Assistants for recognition. In the Department of Hispanic Studies, the Director of Elementary Language Instruction, in consultation with the ELI committee, selects two candidates to guide through the nomination process based on the following criteria:

- In at least their second year of graduate work and teaching.
- Demonstrated excellence in undergraduate teaching as evidenced by exemplary and/or innovative teaching practice, positive student comments and feedback across courses and semesters, laudatory faculty classroom observations across semesters, end of semester evaluations, and the quantitative and qualitative results of Teacher Course Evaluation (TCEs).
- Participation in related pedagogical activities, which can include the following: engagement in related workshops and professional development activities, leadership roles and participation in teaching-related programming with SDP or HIGSA, teaching related conference participation (presentation or attendance), course leader, and/or other related work.
- Has not previously won the A&S Outstanding TA Award.

For each candidate, the following material must be provided:

- Two 1-page letters of recommendation: one from a faculty member who has supervised their teaching and one from the DGS, Chair, or TA Coordinator.
- a Graduate School classroom observation form a recent semester.
- a 2-page curriculum vitae.
- a 1-page statement by the nominee of their teaching philosophy.

- a list of all courses taught by the nominee, the approximate number of students in each class, and the student evaluation scores for “Quality of Instruction” and “Quality of Course” or its departmental student evaluation form equivalent.

Method of Selection

The A&S Educational Policy Committee (EPC) will be responsible for awarding the certificates. The three area subcommittees will serve as respective selection committees for each set of area awards. The department chair will be notified of the results late-April. Presentation of the award to the recipient will be by the department.