

THE COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES OUTSTANDING RESEARCH AWARD

Application Criteria and Guidelines

Deadline: 3rd Friday in February each year

The **CNS Outstanding Research Award** recognizes excellence and honors faculty members who have made important contributions to their discipline, department, college and university.

Eligibility:

- Tenure system faculty members or research faculty who have not received a University or College award in recognition of his or her research accomplishments within the past seven years.
- Faculty are nominated by Department Heads and Chairs or a suitable designee.

Criteria:

- Successful nominees will have demonstrated significant contribution to scholarship in the relevant field at the national or international level.
- Such a contribution could be spread over a relatively long time period, such as a major portion of a career, or could be characterized by one, or more, “major breakthroughs” or “paradigm shifts.”

The Nomination Process:

The following documentation should be assembled into one pdf document (12-point font, single-spaced, one-inch margins). Keep in mind that a multidisciplinary committee of faculty from across CNS who are *not specialists in the nominee's field* will be reviewing and evaluating the candidate's materials. Traditionally 2 awards will be given to CNS faculty (1 early career, 1 more senior).

1. **A nomination letter** written and submitted by the Department Head or Chair (or a suitable designee) of the faculty nominee (*maximum of three pages*). The letter should:
 - Advocate and outline the case for how the nominee has made significant contributions to his or her area of research.
 - Indicate the relationship to and history between the nominator and nominee.
2. **A summary of the nominee's research** prepared by the faculty member being nominated (*maximum of two pages*). The summary should:
 - Be written for individuals who are not specialists in the nominee's field, as the nomination materials will be reviewed by a multidisciplinary committee of faculty from across CNS.
3. **An abbreviated professional CV**, made pertinent to the award criteria (*maximum of five pages*). The CV should:
 - Include appointment and years of service in the College of Natural Sciences (or predecessors).
4. **Up to three letters of support from colleagues and peers**. At least one letter should be from an individual who is external to UMass (*maximum of two pages each*). The letters should:
 - Demonstrate how the nominee meets the criteria for the award.
 - Describe the relationship between the letter writer and the nominee.

Deadline:

Nominating materials for the **CNS Outstanding Research Award** are due no later than **5:00 pm on the 3rd Friday in February** each year.

Submission:

- Email the complete pdf. document (nomination letter, research summary, c.v., letters of support) to Amanda Leigh-Hawkins (aleigh@cns.umass.edu).
- Please include **Nomination: CNS Outstanding Research Award** in the subject heading.