Policy Statement. The University Distinguished Teaching Professorship award recognizes tenured faculty who perform outstanding teaching, teach at the introductory levels of their disciplines, promote the continuous development of teaching excellence, and promote improved teaching among their colleagues in the UNT community.

Application of Policy. Full time tenured faculty at the rank of associate professor or professor.

Definitions. None

Procedures and Responsibilities.

1. Award

The award consists of the designation "University Distinguished Teaching Professor" and a one-time supplement of five thousand dollars ($5000) added to the recipient’s base salary. Up to five awards may be made per year with the restriction that no more than 5 percent of the total faculty at the rank of associate professor and professor can hold the designation "University Distinguished Teaching Professor" at any one time. In the event that the supplement is increased, the difference would be added to the base salary for individuals currently holding the title University Distinguished Teaching Professor.

2. Eligibility

To be eligible for this award, an individual must:

i. be a full-time, tenured associate professor or professor;
ii. have a distinguished record of teaching;
iii. demonstrate the potential for continued excellence in teaching performance; and
iv. demonstrate a commitment to the further development and promotion of excellent teaching performance.
3. **Selection**

Nominations for the designation of University Distinguished Teaching Professor shall be made by the department chair and submitted to the school or college dean. A candidate’s nomination should be based upon a record of excellence consisting of a teaching portfolio covering teaching performance over the 5 year period prior to nomination, and upon evidence therein of sustained excellent performance since promotion to the rank of associate professor.

School or college nominations shall be forwarded by the dean to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs for consideration. Final nominations for the awards shall be submitted to the President by the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, acting in light of the recommendation of the University Distinguished Teaching Professor Selection and Review Committee.

4. **Requirements for University Distinguished Teaching Professors**

All University Distinguished Teaching Professors shall teach at least two courses or the equivalent in direct contact with students including individual instruction each semester. At least one course per year must be offered at the introductory level of the discipline, consistent with the needs of the faculty member’s department. All University Distinguished Teaching Professors shall encourage excellent teaching performance among the faculty and/or graduate students of their unit, of the university, and/or the profession by mentoring, teaching, and/or sharing good teaching practices.

5. **Exceptions**

1. A University Distinguished Teaching Professor on full-time leave is exempt from the workload requirements for the duration of the leave. If partial faculty responsibilities continue, the workload requirement shall apply proportionally to the terms of the leave.

2. A newly selected University Distinguished Teaching Professor may defer compliance with the workload requirements for the first year of the appointment due to existing scheduling commitments.

6. **Restrictions.**

Faculty who hold the Distinguished Teaching Professor distinction shall not be eligible to hold the title of Regents Professor of University Distinguished Research Professor simultaneously. A faculty member may only receive salary supplement for holding the title of Distinguished Research, Distinguished Teaching, or Regents Professor, as such, the salary supplement is not intended to be additive upon change in title. If a faculty member relinquishes the University Distinguished Teaching Professor title to become a Regents Professor or a
University Distinguished Research Professor, the faculty member will receive the salary supplement for only one of the designations, whichever is the higher amount.

7. Retirement and Emeritus Status

An individual who retires from faculty status while holding the designation of University Distinguished Teaching Professor shall be eligible to receive the designation or University Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus. The salary supplement held during regular service prior to retirement shall be included as part of the base salary for the purpose of determining the salary of a University Distinguished Teaching Professor who goes on modified service. University Distinguished Teaching Professors Emeriti shall not be counted against the University’s maximum of five percent of professors who may hold the rank of University Distinguished University Teaching Professor.


The designation of University Distinguished Teaching Professor shall be reviewed by the University Distinguished Teaching Professor Selection and Review Committee in the fifth year after designation has been awarded and every fifth year thereafter as long as the designation is held. The committee will review continued eligibility for the designation, based on the faculty member’s ongoing teaching performance evaluations and on his/her continuing efforts to maintain and improve his/her own teaching excellence and promote quality teaching among graduate students, colleagues, and broader professional communities. The committee shall recommend whether the designation of University Distinguished Teaching Professor should or should not continue. In the event the determination is made that a person should not continue to be a University Distinguished Teaching Professor, the salary supplement that accompanied the initial designation shall be retained by the faculty member.

Specific procedures for the conduct of these reviews shall be adopted and published by the University Distinguished Teaching Professor Selection and Review Committee.

**Responsible Party:** University Distinguished Teaching Professor Selection and Review Committee

9. Composition of Selection and Review Committee

The University Distinguished Teaching Professor Selection and Review Committee shall consist of six tenured faculty members serving staggered three year terms, three student members (one graduate, two undergraduates) serving one year terms, and a representative from the Center for Learning Enhancement, Assessment, and Redesign (CLEAR). Three faculty committee members shall be selected by the Faculty Senate and three by the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. The graduate student shall be selected by the Dean of the Graduate School. The undergraduate students shall be selected by the Office of the
Provost, in consultation with the academic deans. At least one-half of the committee’s faculty members shall be University Distinguished Teaching Professors, and membership should include both full and associate professors. The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, or designee, shall serve as chair of the University Distinguished Teaching Professor Selection and Review Committee.

The University Distinguished Teaching Professor Selection and Review Committee may adopt and publish additional procedures and application standards for review of candidates for the award consistent with this policy.

**Responsible Party:** University Distinguished Teaching Professor Selection and Review Committee

**References and Cross-references.** None

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