

Biological Sciences - Graduate Student Awards
Graduate Student Excellence in Teaching Award
Graduate Student Excellence in Mentorship Award



Goal: To highlight and recognize excellence in teaching and mentoring demonstrated by graduate students in the Department of Biological Sciences

Eligibility: Any currently enrolled Biological Sciences graduate student who has not previously received the award and has taught or mentored UNC undergraduate or graduate students. A student may receive each award once and may receive both awards in the same year.

Application Process: Graduate students are encouraged to be reflective of their own teaching and mentoring as they compile and submit documentation for consideration. Applications will be reviewed by a Review Committee assembled by the Graduate Committee. Successful applicants will:

- Submit a complete application that follows the guidelines below.
- Submit compelling evidence of their success in teaching or mentorship.
- Be endorsed by faculty GA/TA supervisor(s).

Submission materials: Application packets have the following three parts:

1. A two-page self-evaluation of teaching or mentorship explaining why the applicant deserves the award. This document should use 11+ point font, have 1 inch margins, and may be single or double-spaced. It should include at least three of the following:
 - A brief statement of the applicant's teaching/mentoring philosophy
 - Evidence of innovation in instructional design or mentorship activities
 - Evidence of professional development relating to teaching or mentoring
 - Evidence of positive student learning outcomes
 - Other evidence of excellence in teaching or mentorship
2. Two supporting documents. These may include:
 - Letter of support from a student that describes the applicant's capacity as a teacher/mentor
 - Letter of support from a mentee that describes the applicant's capacity as a teacher/mentor
 - Letter of support from a graduate student peer that describes the applicant's capacity as a teacher/mentor
 - Research product of a student or mentee (for example a poster or manuscript)
 - Activities or assessments that the applicant created
 - Other documents that demonstrate excellence in teaching or mentorship
3. The name(s) of at least one faculty member with whom you have worked as a GA/TA at UNC. The review committee will contact this person to request an assessment of the applicant's achievements in teaching or mentorship.

Students wishing to apply for both the mentoring and teaching awards in one year should submit two complete packets - one for each award.

Timeline: Submissions are due with APRs and summer funding reports. Awards will be presented every Fall semester, recognizing the teaching and mentoring achievements of students in the previous two semesters.

In a given year, each award may have up to two winners, with not more than one awarded to a student in the PhD program.