

| Academic Excellence Awards Policy | | | |
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| Policy Sponsor | Provost and Vice President, Academic | Category | Academic |
| Policy Contact | Provost and Vice President, Academic | Effective Date | January 14, 2021 |
| Approved By | General Faculties Council | Review Date | January 14, 2026 |
| Approved Date | January 14, 2021 | | |

1. Purpose

This policy outlines the authority of the Academic Excellence Awards Committee (AEAC) to adjudicate academic awards of excellence to eligible deserving recipients at Athabasca University.

2. Scope

The policy applies to all academic awards recognizing excellence at Athabasca University including but not limited to these awards:

- Craig Cunningham Memorial Award for Teaching Excellence (CCMATE);
- President's Award for Tutoring/Mentoring Excellence (PATME);
- President's Award for Research and Scholarly Excellence (PARSE);
- Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Supervision (AEGSS); and
- Any other relevant academic awards.

3. Definitions

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| Academic Excellence Awards Committee (AEAC) | Athabasca University General Faculties Council Academic Excellence Awards Committee. |
| AU Academic | An employee designated as such by the Board. |
| Tutor | Tutor means a part-time staff member who provides tutorial services to students and includes academic experts. (As defined by General Faculties Council Rules) |
| University | Athabasca University |

4. Guiding Principles

- 4.1. Athabasca University bestows Academic Excellence Awards in recognition of leadership and distinction in teaching, research and other scholarly activities that support student learning and advance the academic mission of the University.
- 4.2. The University's Academic Excellence Awards are annual, nomination or application based awards adjudicated by the Academic Excellence Awards Committee (AEAC).
- 4.3. Academic Excellence Awards may be established from available University resources or through external donations.
- 4.4. The University reserves all rights to establish, grant and administer Academic Awards for Excellence in accordance with University Policy and to make such changes, additions and deletions to any Awards for Excellence as it may deem appropriate from time to time.
- 4.5. The University recognizes sustained and on-going high-quality contributions to excellence in teaching, student mentorship, and research through the provision of purposeful and tangible awards as follows:
 - a) The Craig Cunningham Memorial Award for Teaching Excellence (CCMATE) is awarded annually to one AU Academic in recognition of excellence in teaching at Athabasca University.
 - b) The President's Award for Tutoring/Mentoring Excellence (PATME) is awarded annually to up to two Tutors or Academic Experts in recognition of outstanding instruction to Athabasca University students – normally one in undergraduate programs and one in graduate programs.
 - c) The President's Award for Research and Scholarly Excellence (PARSE) is awarded annually to one or more AU Academic in recognition of a record of excellence in research scholarship.
 - d) The Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Supervision (AEGSS) is awarded annually to up to two AU Academics in recognition of excellence in advising, monitoring and mentoring graduate students engaged in project, thesis, or dissertation work.
- 4.6. Eligibility criteria for each award will be governed by procedures for each award under this policy.

4.7. Nominations and Applications:

- a) The call for nominations or applications for Academic Excellence Awards is initiated annually through the Office of the Provost and Vice President Academic.
- b) Awards are non-transferable.
- c) Individuals may not receive more than one Academic Excellence Award in each academic year.
- d) The call for nominations and applications, and the adjudication of each of the Academic Excellence Awards are outlined in the procedures related to this policy.

4.8. The AEAC is responsible for reviewing the Academic Excellence Award Policy and recommending revisions to General Faculties Council.

5. Applicable Legislation and Regulations

Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

Canada Income Tax Act

6. Related Procedures/Documents

[Craig Cunningham Memorial Award for Teaching Excellence \(CCMATE\) Procedure](#)

[President's Award for Tutoring/Mentoring Excellence \(PATME\) Procedure](#)

[President's Award for Research and Scholarly Excellence \(PARSE\) Procedure](#)

[Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Supervision \(AEGSS\) Procedure](#)

[AU Designation as Academic Policy](#)

NOTE: The subject matter and scope of this policy and its related procedures are also supported by internal use only Standard Operating Procedures.

History

| <i>Date</i> | <i>Action</i> |
|----------------|---------------------------------|
| March 22, 2017 | Motion# 37-05 (revised) |
| June 15, 2016 | Motion# 32-04 (Policy approved) |