

Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award: Call for Nominations

The University of Alabama Graduate School seeks nominations for UA's Outstanding Graduate Mentor Award to showcase the excellent support our faculty provides to graduate students and honor the impact of this important work. Upon receipt of the nominations, the Awards committee of UA's Graduate Council will select a campus-wide winner, whose packet will then be forwarded to the Council of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS) for their annual competition. Guidelines for UA's award are thus drawn from the CSGS process, as outlined at <http://www.csgs.org/awards/outstanding-mentor-award/>.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF NOMINATIONS:

November 16, 2026

CRITERIA (from CSGS guidelines):

- Nominees must have demonstrated continuing success as a mentor of master's or doctoral students, over a significant portion of the candidate's career at UA.
- Reputation for facilitating student learning by making complex ideas understandable and meaningful to students.
- Establishment and maintenance of high academic standards.
- Positive role modeling as a professional, with personal integrity, high ethical standards, and achievable standards for personal excellence.
- The consistent and ongoing guidance of students regarding resources within and outside the university, conflict resolution, and advocacy for completion of the program of study in a timely manner.
- Substantial influence on students' academic and professional pursuits that may include funded research, co-authorship on publications, and/or co-presentations at national or international conferences.
- Evidence of the success of former students in their chosen careers, after they received their degrees.

NOMINATION PACKETS MUST INCLUDE:

- Summary (2-page maximum) of the nominee's qualifications for the award.
- Abbreviated curriculum vitae of the nominee (8-page maximum).
- 3 letters of recommendation (each letter is limited to 2 pages) from former graduate students attesting to the mentoring provided by the nominee. The recommenders must provide evidence of how the nominee contributed to the recommender's success and achievements.
- 2 letters of support from departmental colleagues and/or department chair or head (each letter is limited to 2 pages).
- Optional: other evidence of successful mentorship.
- NOTE: No letters or other evidence from CURRENT graduate students should be included to avoid interference with ongoing mentor-student relationships.

PROCESS:

- Nomination packets should be submitted as a single PDF packet via Slate, by November 16, 2026.
- There is no limit on the number of nominations from a single department or college.
- Nominations may be carried forward to the subsequent year if desired.
- The campus awardee will be announced in February 2027 and will receive a certificate and a modest honorarium. The nomination packet will be forwarded to the CSGS by their deadline. The CSGS winner will receive an additional honorarium and will be recognized at the upcoming CSGS conference.