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## Academic Excellence Awards Policy

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<b>Policy Sponsor:</b>	Provost and Vice-President, Academic
<b>Policy Contact:</b>	Provost and Vice-President, Academic
<b>Policy Number:</b>	N/A
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<b>Procedure:</b>	<a href="#">Craig Cunningham Memorial Award for Teaching Excellence (CCMATE) Procedure</a> <a href="#">President's Award for Tutoring/Mentoring Excellence (PATME) Procedure</a> <a href="#">President's Award for Research and Scholarly Excellence (PARSE) Procedure</a> <a href="#">Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Supervision (AEGSS) Procedure</a>

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### **Purpose**

Athabasca University's Academic Excellence Awards recognize leadership and distinction in teaching, research and other scholarly activities that support student learning and advance the academic mission of the University.

This policy outlines the scope and authority in the awarding of Academic Excellence Awards and defines the eligibility requirements of recipients.

This policy applies to the:

- a) Craig Cunningham Memorial Award for Teaching Excellence (CCMATE);
- b) President's Award for Tutoring/Mentoring Excellence (PATME);
- c) President's Award for Research and Scholarly Excellence (PARSE);
- d) Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Supervision (AEGSS); and



e) any other relevant academic awards.

## **Definitions**

### **Academic Excellence Awards Committee (AEAC)**

Athabasca University General Faculties Council Academic Excellence Awards Committee.

### **Academic Staff**

Academic staff means academic staff who are appointed under the Faculty Association agreement to a full-time faculty position in which the person has been or may be granted tenure, and includes Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors, and Academic Coordinators.

### **Non-academic Staff**

Non-academic Staff means staff members who are appointed to a full-time Professional or Excluded Professional position.

### **Tutors**

Tutor means a part-time staff member who provides tutorial services to students and includes Academic Experts.

## **Policy Statements**

1. Athabasca University (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.
2. The University's Academic Excellence Awards are annual, nomination- or application-based awards adjudicated by the Academic Excellence Awards Committee (AEAC).
3. Academic Excellence Awards may be established from available University resources or through external donations.
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.

## **Awards**

1. The Craig Cunningham Memorial Award for Teaching Excellence (CCMATE) is awarded annually to one Academic Staff member in recognition of excellence in teaching at Athabasca University.
2. 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 – one in undergraduate programs and one in graduate programs.



3. The President's Award for Research and Scholarly Excellence (PARSE) is awarded annually to one or more Academic staff members and/ or Non-academic staff in recognition of a record of excellence in research scholarship.
4. The Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Supervision (AEGSS) is awarded annually to up to two Academic Staff members in recognition of excellence in advising, monitoring and mentoring graduate students engaged in project, thesis, or dissertation work.

### **Eligibility**

1. Academic staff members who have had continuous service of at least three years are eligible for the CCMATE. Academic staff who are retiring during the year of the award are not eligible.
2. Tutors and Academic Experts who have had continuous service of at least three years are eligible for the PATME. Tutors and Academic Experts who are retiring in the year of the award are not eligible.
3. Academic and Non-academic Staff who have full-time continuing appointments are eligible for the PARSE.
4. Academic Staff members who have had continuous service of at least three years are eligible for the AEGSS.
5. Individuals may not receive more than one Academic Excellence Award in each academic year.

### **Nominations, Applications and Adjudication**

1. The call for nominations or applications for Academic Excellence Awards is initiated annually through the Office of the University Secretariat.
2. The Academic Excellence Awards Committee adjudicates the Craig Cunningham Memorial Award for Teaching Excellence, the President's Award for Tutoring/Mentoring Excellence, the President's Award for Research and Scholarly Excellence, the Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Supervision, and any other relevant academic excellence awards.
3. The AEAC is responsible for reviewing Academic Excellence Award policies, procedures and criteria and, as appropriate, recommending revisions to the University's Academic Planning, Policy, and Standards Committee (APPSC).
4. Academic Excellence Awards will be awarded once annually and, where appropriate, will be incorporated into staff awards and recognition events.
5. Awards are non-transferable.



## **Nomination and Selection Process**

The call for nominations and applications, and the adjudication of Academic Excellence Awards, is outlined in the procedures related to this policy.

## **Applicable Legislation and Regulations**

Alberta *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*

Canada *Income Tax Act*

## **Related References, Policies, Procedures and Forms**

[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](#)

## **History**

General Faculties Council, March 22, 2017, Motion # 37-05 (revised)

General Faculties Council, June 15, 2016, Motion # 32-04 (approved)