

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Academy of Distinguished Researchers

To All Academic Deans,

The current members of the Academy of Distinguished Researchers are pleased to announce their call for nominations for membership in the Academy. The Academy admits up to four (4) new members each year – up to two (2) from STEM fields and up to two (2) from non-STEM fields. Two separate award processes will occur concurrently.

The nomination must specify which of the two tracks it is being submitted to.

Track 1: STEM Research-Leader

The nominee has made a paradigm-shifting impact on STEM research that has altered scientific understanding or opened new research directions and made a substantial impact on their field through scientific leadership and by supporting and developing the careers of young scholars. This might involve actions such as holding leadership roles as editors of top journals or program officers at major funding agencies or by supporting and developing graduate and undergraduate students as a dissertation or thesis chair, by engaging them in their research lab or providing funding for their graduate work.

Track 2: Creative, Humanities, and Social Sciences Research-Leader

The nominee has made a transformative impact in creative, humanities, and/or social science fields by reshaping disciplinary conversations, artistic practices, theoretical frameworks, knowledge in the social sciences, and shaped the field through leadership in their discipline and by developing the careers of others who are the future of their profession. This might involve actions such as holding leadership roles as journal or book series editors, serving on review panels for major funding agencies (e.g. NEA), or appointments to government advisory boards, cultural boards or think tanks.

Membership in the Academy of Distinguished Researchers is the highest research award that UTA gives. Members of the Academy exemplify the University's commitment to quality research and creative activity. The Academy has as its goals "to advocate the importance of research and creative activity, to create an appropriate reward structure for scholars, to promote a sense of community among scholars, to serve as role models, to foster research and creative activity, and to advise the institution on research policies and practices" ([Policy AA-FT-PO5](#)). UTA faculty who are elected as members of the ADR are recognized not only by exceptional individual performance as researchers or in the creative arts, but by their commitment to advancing their

fields through their impact on others. In addition to their own research and creative achievements, members of the ADR are recognized by their exceptional commitment to and investment in more junior faculty and graduate students and through acts of research leadership such as editorial service.

Deans of colleges should solicit nominations for membership to the Academy from the faculty in their units. Submissions must be reviewed by and transmitted through the departmental research committee of the nominee's department. The college research committee should review the nominations and departmental reviews. Deans of schools should solicit nominations for review by the school-level research committee. The college/school research committee should rank the nominees and forward the top two candidates to the Dean who will forward the nominations in electronic format (pdf attachments, links to individual websites) to the Office of the Vice President for Research & Innovation (VPRI) vpri@uta.edu. Previous Academy members (those who rotated off after six years) are eligible for Academy nomination after a period of two years. Units may also nominate up to two past members in addition to the two new nominees.

Files will be uploaded for review by the [Academy of Distinguished Researchers](#). The Academy's recommendations will be provided to the Provost and the VPRI. The Provost and VPRI will make recommendations to the President, who will make the final decision regarding new members.

Nomination Packet Requirements (must be submitted electronically [here](#))

1. Candidate's statement of no more than 2 pages. The statement should address the scholarly/creative record and impact of the work.
2. A current curriculum vitae.
3. Up to three pieces of evidence supporting the nomination (pdf or link). Supporting evidence will vary by discipline and may include, but is not limited to selected books, reviews of the nominee's books, performances, exhibitions, copies of journal articles, or summaries of funded grant proposals.
4. At each stage of the review, the review committee shall attach to the nomination packet a letter containing an explanation of the criteria used to evaluate research or creative activity and how the nominee meets the criteria. For nominees in colleges, letters should be attached from the department and college review committees. For nominees in schools, a letter should be attached from the school review committee.
5. Prior to forwarding the nomination to the VPRI, the Dean should attach a letter to the nomination packet addressing the quality and impact of the scholarly/creative work. The letter shall contain an explanation of the criteria used to evaluate research or creative activity and how the nominees meet the criteria.

Incomplete Nominations

Incomplete nominations and nominations which have not been reviewed by the appropriate research committee will not be considered by the Academy of Distinguished Researchers.

Timeline for Awards Nominations

December 12, 2025	Nomination packets due to departmental and school research committee
January 6, 2026	Nomination packets are due from Dean's Office to the VPRI Office. Nomination for the award must be submitted exclusively through VPRI Faculty Research Honors website .
February 1, 2026	Materials available for Academy review
March 1, 2026	Academy recommendations due to VPRI
March 15, 2026	All award winner names submitted to Faculty Affairs by the VPRI office.
April 16, 2026	Awardees recognized at Spring Faculty Meeting