



OFFICE OF THE PROVOST
AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deans and Department/Division Chairs

FROM: Michael McPherson, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

DATE: May 5, 2025

RE: Nominations for the 2026 Presidential Early Career Professorship

I am pleased to announce the call for the **2026 Presidential Early Career Professorship**. The award recognizes a tenure-track faculty member during their probationary period who has an outstanding record of research, scholarship, or creative activity, whose work is transformative, and whose future endeavors show the potential to be transformative. Only faculty in their fifth year or prior, and who are not applying for tenure in FY2026 are eligible. The work being evaluated for this award will be completed while in rank as an assistant professor.

The Presidential Early Career Professorship comes with \$50,000 in research support, and the recipient receives the designation of “Presidential Early Career Professor.” The award will take effect on September 1, 2026. The honoree may retain the title until the point at which tenure is conferred.

Nominations for the designation of Presidential Early Career Professor shall be made by the department chair and submitted to the application portal by the school or college dean. Please refer to the attachment for specific nomination guidelines and requirements. Nominations will be reviewed by the Presidential Early Career Professor Selection and Review Committee.

Deans should submit nominations using the [Faculty Success InfoReady Portal](#) by **5:00 PM, October 9, 2025**. Please submit to the award titled “**Presidential Early Career Professorship.**”

If you have any questions, please contact Faculty Success at faculty.success@unt.edu.

Guidelines and Requirements for Nominations for the Presidential Early Career Professorship

A candidate's nomination is based upon an outstanding record of research, scholarship, or creative activity during the probationary period, and whose work shows the potential to be transformative. Faculty in their fifth year or prior are eligible. **The nomination packet should include the following documents.** Items 1–7 should be merged into a single PDF by the chair; item 8 should be uploaded as a separate file.

1. Table of Contents.
2. Candidates must provide a current vita restricted to work and accomplishments completed while in rank as an assistant professor.
3. A narrative from the applicant, no more than 1000 words in length, describing their record of research, scholarship, and creativity activity as well as detailing how the \$50,000 award will advance their research. The narrative should include a general overview, desired outcomes, any necessary historical context, and demonstration of the transformative nature of the research.
4. A nomination letter from the candidate's chair, highlighting the nominee's qualifications for the position of Presidential Early Career Professor. The letter should describe in detail how the candidate meets the criteria of (a) having a record of outstanding research, scholarship, or creative activity and (b) demonstrating the potential that the nominee's future work will be transformative.
 - The chair should direct the committee's attention to evidence in the nominee's CV and publication list that such a record has, in fact, been achieved.
 - Given that the selection committee comprises scholars from a wide variety of disciplines, it is incumbent on the chair to provide any discipline-specific context the committee may need to judge the quality and potential of the scholarship.
 - Letters from chairs should be no more than 1,000 words in length.
5. A letter from the department's Personnel Affairs Committee (or other unit-level committee, duly constituted for reviewing such nominations), endorsing the Chair's nomination. PAC should describe general expectations for tenure in the department and comment on the applicant's record to provide a sense of where the candidate stands in their discipline and field. In the event of funded research or creative activities and discuss the rigor associated with receiving and implementing the project/award. PACs should also speak to the availability of funded opportunities and professional achievements and opportunities as opposed to funding only. To provide a sense of where the person stands in their discipline and field. Letters from departmental PACs should be no more than 1,000 words in length.
6. A letter from an expert in the faculty member's discipline (not at UNT) that describes the candidate's qualifications for the position of Presidential Early Career Professor. No more than one letter will be reviewed. In order to achieve as much uniformity as possible across the University, the committee suggests that, in soliciting such a letter, the chair use the following language:

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS™

1155 Union Circle #311190 Denton, Texas 76203-5017

940.565.2550 940.565.4438 fax www.vpaa.unt.edu

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The Department of _____ at the University of North Texas is nominating Professor _____ for the position of Presidential Early Career Professor. Professor _____ has indicated to me that you might be willing to write a letter, supporting this nomination. If you are willing to write a letter supporting the nomination of Professor _____, please describe in some detail why they meet the criteria for being named a UNT Presidential Early Career Professor. These criteria are (a) having a record of exceptionally outstanding research, scholarship, or creative activity, (b) having current and past works that are impactful and transformative, and (c) demonstrating the potential that the nominee's future work will be transformative. Your letter should also state what, if any, professional relationship you have or have had with the candidate. Please limit the length of your letter to no more than 1,000 words.

7. A description, written by the chair, giving the qualifications of the external letter writer and the evidence that the letter writer has achieved a national or international reputation for excellence in their chosen field. The description should be no more than one paragraph long. This description might contain phrases such as, "holds the _____ Chair of _____ at _____ University," "edits a prestigious journal in the field of _____," "is a nationally acclaimed art/music critic," "has received the _____ National/International Prize for their work."
8. A letter of support from the candidate's dean.

Department chairs nominating candidates for this award should work with the candidate to compile a nomination packet in a single PDF to send to the dean of the school or college a week before the submission deadline. Deans should add their letter and submit nominations using the [Faculty Success InfoReady Portal](#) by **5:00 PM, October 9, 2025**. Please submit to the award titled "**Presidential Early Career Professorship**."

If you have any questions, please contact Faculty Success at faculty.success@unt.edu.

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