



2027 GARNET APPLE AWARD

Guidelines and Criteria

Rationale

The Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) is pleased to invite nominations for the 2027 Garnet Apple Award for Teaching Innovation. This annual award honors the University of South Carolina's most exceptional faculty who demonstrate an ongoing commitment to best teaching practices and a record of developing innovative strategies to enhance student learning in their courses.

Up to six full-time faculty members from the Columbia and Palmetto College campuses, and the Schools of Medicine (Columbia and Greenville), receive this award each year. Garnet Apple winners are nominated and reviewed by their peers.

Award Description

The award emphasizes the significance of teaching excellence among all faculty and provides distinct recognition to those who explore innovative methods to promote learning and improve teaching.

Award Criteria

The Garnet Apple Award Committee will evaluate the nomination based on the strength of evidence for the following criteria.

1. The nominee should be an exemplary practitioner of teaching who is knowledgeable about and successfully implements the current best practices of teaching and learning.
2. The nominee should have a consistent record of building upon these established best practices and/or creatively innovating to enhance student learning.
3. The nomination materials should provide sufficient evidence to demonstrate the significance and effectiveness of the nominee's innovations.

Eligibility

- All full-time faculty members (tenured, tenure track, and professional track) employed at USC-Columbia, the Schools of Medicine (Columbia and Greenville), and the Palmetto College campuses for a minimum of 3 years at the time of nomination (including current semester) are eligible.
- Members of the Garnet Apple Award Committee are not eligible to be nominated during their time on the committee.
- A nomination may be submitted by any faculty member, chair, dean, associate dean, or chancellor – but a faculty member may not self-nominate.
- After receiving a Garnet Apple Award, the faculty member is not eligible to be nominated again for five years.



Nomination Procedures

Complete nomination packets should be compiled into a single PDF file that includes the following, in order:

1. A completed nomination form.
2. A completed summary form provided by the nominee that does not exceed seven pages and may include up to three links to support materials outside this form.
3. A letter of recommendation from the nominator (2-page limit).
4. A second USC internal letter of recommendation (2-page limit).
5. The nominee's list of courses taught at USC in the past three years, including course number and title, purpose of the course in the curriculum, semester taught, and enrollment numbers.
6. The nominee's brief CV that includes recent/significant scholarship and thoroughly highlights teaching-related accomplishments, presentations, and professional development.

Arrange all nomination materials in the order shown above, and save as a PDF file named: NomineeLastName_2027 Garnet Apple

Complete nomination packets should be emailed to cte@sc.edu with the subject: NomineeLastName_2027 Garnet Apple

Complete nomination packets are due no later than 5PM EST, Wednesday, February 3, 2027.

Notes and Exceptions

- Nominators may submit only one 2027 Garnet Apple Award nomination.
- The committee will accept and review only one nomination per nominee. Nominators may want to confirm with potential nominees.
- If the nominator nominates a faculty team rather than an individual, only one nomination form and one nominator letter of recommendation is required, but all other materials requested, including a second letter of recommendation, must be provided by each team member. In the nominator's letter of recommendation, they should address specifically why a team nomination is appropriate.
- The nominator should highlight the teaching innovation of the nominee and the impact on students.
- The nominator is responsible for collecting the nomination materials, verifying their accuracy and completeness, and submitting them with the nomination packet.
- The application package should be verified by the unit chair.

Selection Process and Timeline

The Garnet Apple Award Committee will evaluate all complete nominations using the award criteria. The committee may conduct interviews with finalists should they deem it useful to the decision-making process. The CTE Director will make the final award selections based on the committee's recommendations. All nominees and their nominators will be notified by April 15, 2027.