



## Outstanding Master's Mentor Award

Recognizing that strong mentorship and advising is an essential component of strong graduate programs, the Graduate School at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette presents the Outstanding Master's Mentor Award to members of the Graduate Faculty with an exceptional record of fostering the academic and professional development of graduate students, particularly for graduate students in a master's degree program.

Five members of the graduate faculty will be recognized annually by the Graduate School as recipients of the Outstanding Master's Mentor Award. Each recipient will be presented with a plaque and formally recognized for their contributions to graduate education at the Honors Convocation.

**Eligibility:** To be considered for the Outstanding Master's Mentor Award, the nominee must be a member of the Graduate Faculty, have been active in graduate education for a minimum of three years, possess an established record of excellence in mentoring master's degree-seeking graduate students, and show evidence of the following:

- the qualities of an effective and outstanding graduate mentor as identified below;
- direction of thesis committees, a record of teaching the capstone or core course in the master's program, and/or service in an official or unofficial advising capacity to master's students;
- an established record of mentoring students who have completed the degree; and
- participation in faculty programming/training relevant to graduate education

**Nominations:** Nominations may be made by an active graduate student, graduate alumni, or member of the UL Lafayette graduate faculty. Self-nominations will not be considered. The nomination packet should include the following:

1. a letter of nomination that establishes the case for the individual faculty member's consideration
2. a one-page statement of graduate mentorship engagement and philosophy from the nominated faculty member
3. an abbreviated curriculum vita highlighting the nominated faculty member's mentorship activity and engagement
4. a letter of support from the nominated faculty member's department head or academic dean

**Nominations must be received by the Graduate School by February 7.** Complete nomination packets may be submitted in by the nominator as a single PDF file by email to [gradschool@louisiana.edu](mailto:gradschool@louisiana.edu) or in hard copy at Martin Hall 332.

**Evaluation and Selection:** Winners will be selected according to the qualities of an effective and outstanding mentor of graduate students identified below. The selection committee shall be chaired by

the Dean of the Graduate School and composed of the immediate-past recipients of the award and members of the Graduate Council or University Committee for Graduate Student Success and Retention who represents any academic college not represented within the immediate-past recipients of the award.

### **Qualities of an Effective and Outstanding Mentor of Graduate Students**

- Models an outstanding record of excellence in mentorship of graduate students in scholarly or creative work, professional activities, teaching skills, and academic and professional integrity.
- Promotes successful completion of students' graduate work and degree programs.
- Supports the recruitment of a diverse and inclusive body of graduate students.
- Creates a supportive environment for students to pursue careers that make use of their graduate education.
- Demonstrates a commitment to fostering the intellectual, creative, and professional growth of their master's students.
- Provides students with the confidence, encouragement, and resources to take advantage of academic and professional opportunities at the University.
- Collaborates with other faculty in building stimulating intellectual cultures in which students thrive.
- Promotes successful completion of students' research and degree programs by monitoring progress and offering honest, constructive feedback when needed or sought.
- Commits to advancing students' long-term professional development—throughout their journey from student to professional—by recognizing and making potential colleagues aware of their natural talents and acquired skills and by integrating students into the broader culture of the discipline.
- Ensures that students master the content and skills of their discipline, including the ability to teach or present that content to professional and non-professional audiences.
- Creates a supportive environment for research and scholarship by fostering mutual respect and demonstrating sincere and active interest in the well-being of the student.
- Maintains accessibility by providing consistently open lines of communication.
- Models a solid record of scholarship marked by excellence in research and teaching skills, research presentation and publication, the ability to obtain funding, and the exercise and nurturing of good mentoring practices
- Actively supports the academic and personal success of underrepresented students who are of color, female, LGBTQ, first-generation degree-holders or non-native speakers of English—especially in fields in which those students are underrepresented. Additionally, we seek to recognize those mentors who promote an inclusive and diverse graduate education environment.
- Through mentorship, contributes generally to graduate education at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.