



College of Science and Mathematics

2026-2027 DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD: **GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION**

James Madison University (JMU) prides itself on the accomplishments and commitment of its faculty. Each JMU college presents the Distinguished Teacher Award annually to one faculty member in recognition of superlative achievement in teaching. The award was established in 1981 and named after the late Carl Harter, a distinguished member of JMU's academic community.

The College of Science and Mathematics (CSM) Distinguished Teacher will be chosen by the CSM Faculty Research and Awards Committee. The recipient will be invited to deliver the faculty address to graduates at the CSM Commencement ceremony in the spring and will be given a \$1000 honorarium. An announcement of recipients from each college will be made each spring by the Provost's Office.

Past Distinguished Teacher Award recipients: <https://www.jmu.edu/academic-affairs/awards/teacher.shtml>

TIMELINE

- Guidelines and Applications updates announced to CSM departments in early Fall.
- CSM departments inform nominees of their nomination in October.
- Nominee's dossier is due (electronically as a single PDF) to the CSM Dean's office (emuriabd@jmu.edu) by **12:00 noon, EDT, on November 3, 2025**.

REQUIREMENTS. To be eligible for the CSM Distinguished Teacher Award the nominee must:

- 1) Currently teach undergraduates and/or graduate students.
- 2) Currently have full-time (non-retired or non-emeritus) status.
- 3) Have completed at least five years of service at JMU.
- 4) Have never received the College Distinguished Teacher Award.

PROCEDURE. The selection process begins at the departmental level. Distinguished Teacher nominees may be nominated by any full-time faculty member, including academic unit heads.

For consideration, nominees must submit a dossier that includes:

- A maximum one-page statement of educational philosophy, including how the nominee's teaching has impacted JMU, as well as local, national, and/or international communities.
- A list of all courses taught in the last five years with a brief summary of role played in their development and/or modification. A file of sample materials used during one course must be included.
- Current CV

- OPTIONAL: Up to three letters of support. While optional, the nominee should consider the added value, impact, and context provided by peers, graduated students, and/or external evaluation of their teaching activities. Letters must not be longer than one page and should be addressed to the chair of the Faculty Research and Awards Committee. Only letters from graduated students, not those currently enrolled, will be accepted. Letters from reviewers external to JMU (e.g. faculty peers at another institution) are highly encouraged.

Please contact CSM Associate Dean Steve Whitmeyer (whitmesj@jmu.edu) for more information about the application process.