

NAZARETH UNIVERSITY

Teaching Excellence Awards 2025 - 2026

Excellence in teaching is integral to the mission of Nazareth University, and as such merits recognition. Awards will be presented annually to one full-time faculty and one adjunct faculty. These awards are institutional recognition and a monetary acknowledgment of the substantial efforts that faculty devote to their work in areas such as the quality of teaching, interest and use of innovative pedagogies, exploration of teaching techniques and outcomes, relationships with students and mentoring of peers. The award amount for full-time faculty will be **\$1000.00** and **\$500.00** for part-time faculty.

Nominations Process: These awards are open to full-time and part-time/adjunct faculty who have completed at least two semesters of teaching at Nazareth University. Nominations from faculty members, students, and Nazareth staff must be received by **Monday, February 2, 2026** using this link [Nazareth University Teaching Excellence Awards Nomination](#). No self-nominations will be accepted. Nominated faculty will be notified by **February 3** and must accept their nomination by **Monday, February 9**. Faculty members who decide to proceed to the submission process must complete the process in its entirety.

Submission Process: Faculty who accept the nomination must submit a **Nomination Acceptance Form** by Monday, February 9. In this acceptance form, the following will be requested:

- The names and email addresses of 5 students/alumni who will be contacted as references. Students should not be currently enrolled in the nominee's courses, nor should they be alerted that they will be contacted. Students will receive a brief digital survey to complete.
- The names and email addresses of two colleagues who can speak to the nominee's teaching excellence. Full-time faculty should include one colleague from within their discipline and one from outside their discipline. Part-time faculty should include one Nazareth colleague and one department leader. Nominees should not use the same colleague they used for their peer observation. Colleagues will be contacted via email and may respond in writing or via phone. They will be asked to describe what makes the nominee an excellent teacher.
- Nominees must be observed by two people as described below:
 - **FULL-TIME FACULTY:** One observation can be by a colleague or department leader of the nominee's choice* (unique from the reference colleague and completed within the last year). The second observation must be done by a faculty fellow in the PLIC or TIIL. To arrange this observation, nominees will provide details on the Spring 2026 course they would like observed in the nomination acceptance form. The observation will be one hour and will use the [Peer Observation Form](#).
 - **PART-TIME FACULTY:** Two observations are required, one from a colleague of the nominee's choice*, which can include a TIIL or PLIC faculty fellow. A second observation must be done by one of the nominee's department leaders (Chair, Program Director, Associate Dean, etc.). If a faculty fellow observation is requested, details on the Spring 2026 course they would like observed in the nomination acceptance form. Observations will be one hour and will use the [Peer Observation Form](#).

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Additional Materials:

By **Friday, February 27**, nominees must submit the following to the Director of the Center for Professional Learning, Innovation, & Creativity (Susan Sturm, [ssturm6@naz.edu](mailto:ss Sturm6@naz.edu)):

- *Any teaching observations completed by colleagues or department leaders. Observations done by PLIC & TIIL faculty fellows do **not** need to be submitted via email.
- A 1-2 page teaching statement.
- Any teaching artifacts that nominees wish to have considered as part of their application. This can include Moodle course URLs, teaching documents, etc. Teaching artifacts are not required but are welcome.

Review Committee: The review committee will be composed of the winners of the previous year's Teaching Excellence Awards, the TIIL and PLIC faculty fellows, one representative from the Faculty Development Committee, and the Director of Professional Learning, Innovation, & Creativity.

Review Process: The committee will receive the submission materials the week of March 9-13, 2026. The committee will select one awardee per category, full-time and part-time faculty. The awardees will be notified by March 23, 2026 and will be honored at the Teaching Excellence – Student Success Awards Ceremony in April.