

# 2021 GARNET APPLE AWARD

# Guidelines and Criteria

### Rationale

The Office of the Provost is pleased to invite nominations for the 2021 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 an ongoing record of developing innovative strategies to enhance student learning in their courses.

Just as the Breakthrough Awards recognize the importance of innovative research to the university, the Garnet Apple Award demonstrates the university’s promise to deliver the most successful current developments in teaching and learning to our students. Up to six full-time faculty members from the Columbia and Palmetto College campuses receive this award each year. Garnet Apple winners are nominated and reviewed by their peers.

### Award Description

The award highlights the importance of teaching excellence among all faculty and holds up for special recognition those faculty members who explore new methods for fostering learning and improving teaching. The recipients of this award are featured in a widely distributed publication, *Vision, Innovation, Practice*, and other media throughout the year. *Vision, Innovation, Practice* will be distributed to all faculty and administration, peer institutions, program managers, legislative and congressional representatives, and selected alumni and donors. Award recipients are invited to showcase their innovation to the UofSC community. Additionally, they are awarded the Garnet Apple at a provost reception.

### 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 non-tenure track) employed at UofSC-Columbia and/or 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 internal letter of recommendation (2-page limit).
5. The nominee’s list of courses taught at UofSC 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\_2021 Garnet Apple

Complete nomination packets should be emailed to [cte@sc.edu](mailto:cte@sc.edu) with the subject: NOMINEELASTNAME\_2021 Garnet Apple

## Complete nomination packets are due no later than 5PM EST, February 8, 2021.

### Notes and Exceptions

* Nominators may submit only one 2021 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 innovation of the teaching of the nominee and the impact on students.
* The nominator is responsible for collecting, verifying completeness and accuracy, and submitting nomination materials.
* 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 committee will provide a prioritized list of recommended recipients to the provost. The provost will make the final award selections based on the committee’s recommendations. All nominees and their nominators will be notified by March 30, 2021.

For questions regarding this award, contact Aisha Haynes in the Center for Teaching Excellence at [**haynesa@mailbox.sc.edu**](mailto:haynesa@mailbox.sc.edu) or 803-777-8322.