



Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professorship

Award: The Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professorship is the highest honor bestowed upon a faculty member by Harriot College. The award recognizes an advanced scholar or creative artist who has made significant contributions to their discipline and to teaching and service in the College. The professorship shall be conferred upon a professor whose career exemplifies an exceptional commitment to the advancement of new knowledge, as demonstrated by outstanding teaching/advising, research/creative productivity, and professional service. Because this award shall be the most prestigious conferred by the College, it shall be given annually only if a highly deserving professor has been recommended and selected by the Dean. Simply stated, the faculty member selected as a Distinguished Professor must be an exemplar in every aspect of professional life. Although the special honors of the Distinguished Professorship shall be given only during the academic year when a professor is recognized, the title and recognition shall last a lifetime.

Special Honors: During the academic year in which a faculty member is awarded the title “Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor,” the faculty member shall be given special honors and recognition in appreciation of career achievements. Such honors include:

- a framed certificate and Harriot College medallion, to be presented by the Dean at the annual Arts and Sciences Convocation;
- a feature story documenting the recipient’s achievements, to be distributed broadly at college and university levels (and beyond, to the community) through online publication and inclusion in the College’s media outlets;
- the option to (a) receive from the College a professional development stipend¹ during the award year to support research, conference participation, or other discipline-related activities (b) a public lecture in honor of the Distinguished Professor given by an eminent authority in the awardee’s research, teaching, or performance field, coordinated by members of the recipient’s department and underwritten by the College; and
- a one-course reduction (to be taken within the first two academic years following announcement of the award, in consultation with the department chair and the dean’s office) to enable focused attention on a new scholarly project.

Special Responsibilities: During the academic year when a faculty member is awarded the Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Professorship, the faculty member shall accept additional responsibilities as one of the College’s most prestigious and influential faculty members. The Distinguished Professor might be called upon to advise the Dean, to accompany the Dean and department chair to special events, to open their classes to colleagues, to serve as a mentor to other faculty, and to give occasional presentations on behalf of the College. A Distinguished Professor shall strive to bring credit to the department, College, and University and to champion the liberal arts.

¹ Amount for 2022 is set at \$2,000. The College may adjust the amount annually as necessary and appropriate.

Distinguished Professorship Committee: Finalists for the Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professorship shall be recommended to the Dean by a committee appointed by the Dean. The Dean shall name members of the committee by no later than the end of January of each year. The committee's composition shall be balanced to represent the humanities, the natural sciences and mathematics, and the social sciences. Because the Distinguished Professor shall be selected from nominees recommended by department chairs and personnel committee chairs, no unit administrator or personnel committee chair may serve on the committee. Instead, the committee shall be composed of at least three and no more than five persons holding the rank of Professor. The committee shall include, when possible, the most recent recipient of the Professorship.

Nomination Procedure: Only one nomination per department is allowed. The department chair should submit the nomination packet [via Qualtrics](#) no later than 5pm on April 1 (or the next business day, if April 1 falls on a weekend). The nomination package shall include only the following:

- a nomination letter of no more than two pages from the department chair or chair of personnel committee, which should include 1) verification that the departmental personnel committee was consulted; 2) the year in which the candidate achieved the rank of full professor; and 3) pertinent qualifications of the external referees;
- the nominee's current vita;
- evidence of excellence in teaching (student evaluations and comments; letters from alumni attesting to teaching and/or instructional effectiveness);
- a specific statement of the candidate's contribution to the field and its context/impact;
- letters from three departmental colleagues attesting to the professor's high level of performance in teaching/advising, research/creative productivity, and professional service; and
- letters from three eminent faculty members from other universities or practicing professionals attesting to the professor's national or international contributions to the field.

Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences is committed to supporting and advancing faculty from diverse backgrounds.

Committee Criteria: Because each field has special qualities that characterize exemplary work, the committee's evaluation shall allow for disciplinary differences. Primarily, however, an Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor shall:

- hold the rank of Professor at the time of nomination;
- have at least seven years of service at East Carolina University prior to the academic year in which the award is made;
- have an outstanding record in teaching/advising, research/creative productivity, and service;
- demonstrate excellence in undergraduate and (if appropriate) graduate teaching and advising;
- be a recognized, national/international leader in the field demonstrated through publications or creative productivity, contributions to professional organizations, and national/international honors;
- reflect through various forms of high-quality service a genuine concern for the department, College, and University; and
- be a model scholar of their liberal arts discipline.

Department chairs are eligible for nomination.

Limitation: Because a Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professorship represents a lifetime distinction, the award shall be bestowed on a faculty member only once.

Selection: After carefully considering all submitted nominations, the Distinguished Professorship committee shall submit to the Dean by April 22 an unranked, confidential list of two finalists for the award along with a detailed narrative of the relative strengths of the two individuals. [If the committee finds that no candidate is worthy of recommendation as a finalist, the committee may submit no names to the Dean.] The Dean may (a) select a single recipient from this list, (b) decide to fully recognize co-recipients from this list, or (c) determine that neither finalist rises to the exceptionally high bar and decide to name no recipient that year.

Announcement: The Dean shall announce the Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor at the Harriot College's Fall Convocation.

Unanimously approved by the HCAS Department Chairs on January 18, 2018. Editorially revised January 2023.