



GSAS Student Council (GSC)
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS)
Harvard University

Everett Mendelsohn Award for Excellence in Mentorship

Introduction

We encourage all GSAS students to nominate professors and advisors who have gone above and beyond in serving and supporting graduate students to receive the Everett Mendelsohn Excellence in Mentoring Award. Nominations are due on March 5th by 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time (ET; USA).

The Mendelsohn Award is presented annually to one or more Harvard faculty members on the basis of nominations from GSAS students. A selection committee reviews nominations from GSAS students in order to highlight for the entire Harvard community faculty members who provide excellent and exceptional mentorship to graduate students. The GSAS Student Council hosts this award in the hope that these mentors will serve as paragons of graduate student advising, thereby fostering a tradition of outstanding faculty mentorship for emerging scholars throughout the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences.

The GSAS Student Council received a Program Award from the National Association of Graduate-Professional Students in recognition of the Mendelsohn Awards in 1999, and the Council is thrilled to continue hosting this annual award competition in order to further its mission to advocate for, honor, and support the entire GSAS community at Harvard.

One or more GSAS students who nominated the awardee(s) will be asked to speak at the award ceremony, which will take place on April 7th at 4:00 p.m.

More detailed information about the nomination process and ceremony are included below, including: (1) Evaluation Criteria for the Award; (2) Eligibility requirements for nominators and nominees (3) Instructions for Submitting Nominations; (4) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ).

Evaluation Criteria for the Award

A fulfilling graduate education and successful professional and career development depends critically on the mentoring relationships students can form, especially but not solely with their thesis supervisor. Your nomination of a faculty member should describe how the mentor has provided outstanding support to you, encouraging and promoting your research education, professional and personal development, and career. You may also describe the how the faculty member has provided similar support to other GSAS students. Try to give specific examples and provide stories.

The sole criterion for the award is excellence in mentoring; the following are just some of the qualities which can contribute to good mentoring, which you should look for in a mentor (in no particular order of importance; a nominee need not have all these qualities):

- Provides plentiful and excellent guidance on research endeavors
- Organizes an effective and inclusive environment for research and scholarship (e.g., lab meetings, colloquia)
- Develops students' talents in a targeted, tailored manner (e.g., research skills, pedagogical proficiency, presenting/speaking technique, facility with writing (including scholarly, popular-press, grants/fellowship applications, etc.)
- Promotes students in the academic/professional community and elsewhere
- Advocates for and guides students in administrative, organizational and professional matters
- Demonstrates care and concern for students as people and supports their personal development
- Consistently responds to students' needs in a timely and effective manner

Restrictions

- The nominator must be a current Harvard GSAS student.
- The nominator must have been mentored by the nominee (although it is not necessary that the nominee be the nominee's principal research advisor).
- The nominee must be a Harvard faculty member.

Deadline

Nominations are due by March 5th, 2021, at 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time (ET; United States).

Instructions for Submitting Nominations

1. Please read the Mentoring Award Guidelines and Frequently Asked Questions to learn more about the nomination process.
2. Write a Primary Statement of Nomination describing your relationship with your faculty nominee and how they have distinguished themselves as a mentor to you. Feel free to share specific stories and anecdotes as appropriate. In short, how has the nominee's mentoring enhanced your graduate education and professional and personal development? You may wish to consult the awards criteria for qualities which you may want to cite. All nominations will be kept strictly confidential. Nomination Letters are typically 1-2 pages, however there is no minimum or maximum length. You may submit multiple nominations, but you must fill out a new form for each nomination.
3. Please upload your statement of nomination via Engage, [here](#). Only complete applications will be considered. This pdf file should be named:
NomineeLastName_NomineeFirstName_YourLastName_EMEMA.pdf

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why should I nominate my faculty mentor for an award?

If a faculty member has mentored you and made your graduate school experience academically and personally rewarding and fulfilling, the Council would like to provide recognition for these efforts which often go unnoticed. By honoring those who show concern for graduate students, the Council hopes to celebrate mentoring throughout the GSAS.

2. How do I nominate my faculty mentor for an award?

Navigate to the GSAS Student Council's Engage website, [here](#), and fill out the application.

3. Will my advisor know that I nominated them?

No, all nominations will be kept strictly confidential. Although we hope that students will want to inform their advisors that they have been nominated, the GSAS Student Council will not do so. You are strongly encouraged to invite your mentor to the Awards Reception and Student-Faculty Dinner, but only award recipients will be specifically invited by the Committee. Your name will not be attached to any nomination without your consent.

4. What should I include in the statement of nomination?

We have left the contents of the student statement up to you on purpose, so that you can describe why the faculty nominee has contributed to your graduate school experience in whichever way is appropriate for you. Some qualities and characteristics you may want to consider, if you desire, are listed on the statement of awards criteria on this page. We encourage you to share stories and anecdotes and to be as specific as possible.

5. How long should my statement of nomination be?

We have not specified a length. A paragraph may be sufficient, while several pages may be excessive. The committee will be guided by the content of your statement, not by its length.

6. What about soliciting additional letters of support?

You are welcome to ask other students to write additional letters in support of your nomination, although you are by no means expected to do so. A letter from a single student may be more than sufficient.

7. Does my nominee have to be my academic or primary research advisor?

No, students experience mentoring relationships with many faculty members, including committee members, course instructors, and others. You can nominate any Harvard faculty member you feel has served as a mentor to you.

8. My mentor is not in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Can I still nominate him/her?

Yes. The awards are designed to recognize faculty for mentoring GSAS students in the context of their Harvard academic program, regardless of the affiliation of the faculty members. Students in GSAS inter-Faculty graduate programs are encouraged to nominate their mentors in FAS as well as other Faculties. The mentor must, however, be a Harvard faculty member.

9. How will the recipients be selected?

The GSAS Student Council's Excellence in Mentoring Awards Committee, which is composed of students from the four divisions of GSAS, will make the selections based solely upon the nominations of GSAS students. As such, the award is being bestowed by students. No faculty or administrators are involved in the selection process.