CLEAR Outstanding Online Course Award

# 2025-2026 Eligibility and Selection Criteria

The Center for Learning Experimentation, Application, & Research (CLEAR) recognizes annually one full-time faculty member for the development of an outstanding online course, as demonstrated through excellence in course design. The recipient of the $1,500 award will be recognized at UNT’s Salute to Faculty Excellence ceremony in 2026 and [listed publicly](https://digitalstrategy.unt.edu/clear/program-initiatives/online-teacher-course-award.html) alongside past winners.

## Eligibility

All full-time faculty members (tenure system and professional faculty) are eligible, but previous awardees are not eligible for nomination for five years following the receipt of the award. Administrators, including those who teach, are not eligible for these awards. Only courses that were developed or redeveloped with CLEAR and delivered to students in the past two years (i.e., from fall 2023 to summer 2025) are eligible for a nomination.

The nominee must have developed or redeveloped the course as a part of CLEAR’s Online Course Development process. The award recipient must agree to allow the course design to be shared with other UNT faculty and administrators as a model for outstanding course design.

Faculty may be nominated by themselves, by their department chair, or by other faculty colleagues. CLEAR staff who collaborated with the nominee in course development may also submit a nomination. Nominees will be contacted and asked to submit a complete application packet if they wish to accept the nomination.

## Selection Criteria

The selection is based on evidence of outstanding course design. The award recipient's course should feature well-structured and engaging learning materials, promote dynamic and accessible interaction, and align assessments with learning objectives. The Online Course Award Committee comprises members of CLEAR's Instructional Design Team.

### Complete application packet should include in one PDF

1. A direct link to the Canvas course section that the nominee wishes the Committee to evaluate.
2. A letter of support from the nominee’s department chair (maximum 300 words) to confirm the nominee’s good standing within their department and to highlight the impact and effectiveness of the nominated course.
3. A brief narrative (max. 300 words) outlining the faculty member's philosophy of teaching online and its application in the nominated course.

## Selection Process

The Online Course Awards Committee reviews nominations and selects one award recipient by evaluating complete applications.

## Use of Award Funds

Award recipients may use the awarded funds at their personal discretion.

## Submission

Email nomination packets to Benjamin.Nye@unt.edu by 5:00 pm on **Monday, November 10, 2025**. Incomplete packets will not be considered.