

Office for Scholarship in Learning and Education Research (OSLER)

## Scholarship in Education Award

Frequently Asked Questions

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### **Why should I apply for this award?**

*Between clinical, administrative, and other duties, educators' time is at a premium. What makes this award unique is that it is the first externally peer reviewed, criterion-based education award at Penn State College of Medicine. It is our hope that this award will be used as a benchmark for determining quality in educational scholarship, and we will be working to ensure that it is known as such.*

### **Who is eligible to apply for the award?**

*For this year, only faculty members are eligible to apply for the award. If you have a faculty appointment at Penn State College of Medicine, you are eligible.*

### **Is the award for my sum total of educational accomplishments, or just for one thing?**

*The Award is aimed at ONE SCHOLARLY EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY that you have pursued IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR. The idea is to reward educators for taking a scholarly approach to their educational activities (e.g., teaching, mentoring, educational research, development of educational materials, educational design, etc.). As such, applicants should pick the ONE BEST THING that they have taken a scholarly approach to in the past year, and build an application around that one thing.*

### **Can I apply for this award next year if I receive it this year?**

*Yes. It is conceivable that a faculty member could win this award multiple years, if they are doing unique scholarly work in education each year. Our hope is that faculty members will take a scholarly approach to all their educational activities, and will be eligible to apply each year.*

### **Am I competing with others who apply for the award?**

*No. We stress that this is a CRITERION-BASED award. In theory, if everyone who applied met the criteria, then all would receive the award. That being said, applications will undergo peer review by experts in education outside of Penn State College of Medicine, who will apply the six Glassick criteria in their review, meaning that applications need to rigorously demonstrate that they meet the criteria for high quality scholarly work.*

### **How does this differ from other awards at Penn State College of Medicine?**

*This award differs in three subtle but important ways. First, it is criterion based (see above), rather than competition-based. Second, all applications will undergo peer-review by reviewers outside of our institution, lending an additional layer of external validity. Finally, the award is based on the nature of a specific scholarly ACTIVITY over the past year, rather than an assessment of the overall quality of the individual as an educator. In other words, most other education awards are focused on the individual (e.g., are they a good teacher?, etc.), whereas this award is focused on the quality of an individual's educational efforts, as viewed through the lens of specific scholarship criteria..*

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**What exactly are Glassick's Criteria?**

*Dr. Charles Glassick, former President of Gettysburg College and co-author of the text "Scholarship Assessed: Evaluation of the Professoriate" conducted a study in the mid-1990s to determine what journal editors, directors of scholarly presses, and funding agencies used as guidelines to define whether an endeavor was scholarly. They found 6 common themes:*

- 1. Clear Goals*
- 2. Adequate Preparation*
- 3. Appropriate Methods*
- 4. Significant Results*
- 5. Effective Communication*
- 6. Reflective Critique*

*It is these six themes that the external peer reviewers will use to determine the quality of scholarship in submissions for this award. See the award application template for further description of the six themes.*

*Additional information can be found at <https://www.academicped.org/events/assets/Glassick%20article.pdf>*