



## H. LEE COOPER CORE CURRICULUM TEACHING AWARD

The Core 39 Committee has established the following guidelines for the H. Lee Cooper Core Curriculum Teaching Award (revised 12/8/2017).

**Rationale for the Award.** The H. Lee Cooper Core Curriculum Teaching Award recognizes superior teaching in Core 39. The award honors a faculty member whose work in University Core courses has been especially creative and successful in furthering UCC goals, and focuses exclusively on teaching within the Core. Furthermore, it serves as a motivator for faculty and provides faculty role models for UCC teachers. Named for an Evansville civic leader and long-time supporter of education, the award recognizes Mr. Cooper's commitment to the role of liberal arts education in the workplace.

**Eligibility.** With the exception of current members of the University Core Council, all members of the Core teaching faculty, both full-time and adjunct, are eligible to receive the award. Such faculty are defined as those who have taught at least one course for the University Core Curriculum and have made a significant contribution to Core 39. Past recipients are eligible to receive this award if their work in Core 39 deserves continued recognition; however, no faculty member can receive this award more than once within a five-year period.

### **Procedures.**

**Nomination.** Nomination guidelines will be available annually in the fall and faculty should be encouraged to recommend their colleagues. Members of the teaching faculty, both full-time and adjunct, may nominate colleagues. The **nominator** shall complete the two-page nomination form; font size shall be no smaller than 12 point. Each nomination should be made by one faculty member only, thus carrying a single signature. Self-nominations may not be made. Nominations will be due on **the third Friday of January**. Nominators, nominees, and finalists will be apprised of the status of their nomination by **the third Friday of February**.

The Core 39 Cooper Award Subcommittee will review the applications and select up to five finalists who will be asked to submit additional documentation. The finalists who are not chosen as the recipient of the award will be kept in the applicant pool for an additional year, unless a specific request is made to withdraw the application. Applicants in the pool will be given an opportunity to update their materials if they wish to do so.

**Application for Finalists.** The finalists will be asked to email the following information to the Director of Core 39 by **the third Friday of March**:

1. A narrative not exceeding five double-spaced pages that include:
  - a. The nominee's teaching philosophy as it relates to Core 39 courses;
  - b. A list of Core 39 courses taught (including semesters/number of sections);
  - c. An overview of contributions to Core 39 (for example, the creation or modification of courses, service related to Core 39 assessment, research related to teaching general education courses, etc.).
2. Between **three and five** supporting documents (not to exceed 10 pages), which may include – but is not limited to – any combination of the following:
  - a. Example(s) of innovative assignments used in a Core 39 course;
  - b. Peer review(s) of teaching; and/or
  - c. Letter(s) of support from the nominee's department chair and/or dean, faculty colleagues, alumni, and students.

The narrative and supporting documents should provide evidence of innovative teaching in Core 39. Other contributions may also be highlighted in the application materials. Examples include: (a) providing significant input into the development of a new Core 39 course; (b) refining an existing course so that it more adequately meets the goals of Core 39, or (c) providing continuous effort to create and implement engaging, student-centered strategies designed to promote the achievement of the goals of Core 39. The font size of all documentation shall be no smaller than 12 point.

**Selection.** The recipient of the H. Lee Cooper Core Curriculum Teaching Award will be selected by the members of the Core 39 Committee. In particular, the committee is looking for evidence of student engagement in the classroom, the use and/or development of innovative pedagogy, demonstrated competence and expertise in the course's subject matter, and the ability to connect learning in the classroom to the everyday life of the broader community. The committee is under no obligation to select a recipient each year.

**Award Announcement.** The winner of the H. Lee Cooper Core Curriculum Teaching Award will be announced at the Fall Faculty Convocation. The individual will receive a plaque, a \$4,000 stipend award, and \$2,000 in professional development funding.

**Recipient Responsibilities.** The winner will be responsible for delivering the commencement address at one of the University of Southern Indiana's fall commencement ceremonies.



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NOMINATION FORM

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**Instructions.** Please complete this **nomination form** and attach a **nomination letter** that does not exceed two pages in length, and the font size shall be no smaller than 12 point. In your letter, discuss the nominee’s contributions to the core curriculum, such as:

- The ability to connect classroom learning to everyday life in the broader community;
- The use and/or development of innovative pedagogy;
- Expertise in the course’s subject matter; and/or
- Any additional contributions to Core 39 (i.e., developing new courses, revising core courses for online delivery, service on Core 39 committee).

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Listing of Core 39 Courses taught by Nominee:**

<u>Course(s):</u>	<u>Semester(s):</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Name of Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Submit the nomination form and letter as .PDF documents to the Director of the University Core Curriculum (Mary Hallock Morris, [mhmorris@usi.edu](mailto:mhmorris@usi.edu)).