

**Guidelines for the
“Excellence Award in Interdisciplinary Scholarship”
(EAIS)**

A. Background:

Excellence in interdisciplinary research and instruction or the application of such knowledge and skills to problems and opportunities in society are both more difficult to perform and less frequently recognized and rewarded than is excellence in the more traditional disciplines. The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, through its nearly 100-year-long commitment to excellence in scholarly pursuits across all fields of study, is an ideal home for an “Excellence Award in Interdisciplinary Scholarship” award.

B. Requirements:

1. The Award recognizes excellence of a team effort, not performance of one individual, in teaching, research, service, or a combination of these activities.
2. There is no restriction on which disciplines have been involved, and the team may include practitioners as well as scholars, although the academically-based scholarly component must have been a substantial part of the effort.
3. The team effort being honored need not be currently active, but activities completed more than a decade earlier must clearly be of an outstanding and highly significant nature to be considered.

C. Special considerations:

1. Special consideration will be given to multidisciplinary team efforts that combine basic sciences and/or engineering with one or more of the fields of business, social sciences, humanities, or the arts. Such efforts may involve agriculture and natural resources, health care, communications, transportation, energy, or local, state, national, or international government.
2. Special consideration will be given to team efforts that result in improved local, national, or international
 - a. human enablement strategies and programs; or
 - b. economic development, sustained use of resources, long-term global environmental health, or non-adversarial conflict resolution strategies and procedures.
3. Special consideration will be given to team efforts that involve human diversity, either among team members or among diverse target beneficiaries of the activities.

D. Nomination and selection process:

1. Nominations will be sought annually from the Provost, the Vice President for Research & Graduate Studies, members of the Council of Deans, and chapter members.
2. Nominations should be accompanied with
 - a. documentation including name, rank, and affiliation of the team members (including their area(s) of expertise;
 - b. a brief (not to exceed 5 pages) description of the team effort, including its duration, funding sources, beneficiaries, and an assessment of its significance to both the scholarly community and to the society served; and
 - c. a nominating unit which provides an assessment of the nomination.
3. Endorsements by one unit of a nomination by another unit must be supported by a description of the first-hand knowledge of the effort that warrants such endorsement.

4. An "Excellence Award in Interdisciplinary Scholarship" committee selected by the Chapter president will annually solicit nominations for the EAIS and recommend the winner to the Chapter at its Annual Meeting for presentation at the Annual Initiation Banquet.
5. There will normally be one EAIS awarded by Chapter 041 of Phi Kappa Phi each year. However, if no nomination meets the criteria or is judged as worthy in the sole discretion of the EAIS Committee, no award will be made. In case of a tie for first place in the judgment of the EAIS Committee, duplicate awards may be presented.
6. If a national Phi Kappa Phi EAIS is initiated, the Chapter EAIS Committee will review the credentials of previous Chapter award winners and select a nominee for the Chapter to forward for national consideration, with updated credentials if needed.

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