

OSSTF/FEESO Faculty of Education Award 2024–25

The **OSSTF/FEESO Faculty of Education Award**, valued at \$1,000 annually, shall be awarded to one graduating Intermediate/Senior or Technological Education Teacher Candidate at each [English-language publicly assisted Ontario faculty of education](#) who applies for the award and who in the opinion of the OSSTF/FEESO Provincial Executive has shown a clear understanding of and commitment to the values of unionism, and best exemplifies the criteria below.

Award Recipient Selection Process

1. All applications to this award must be submitted online using the **Application Form** link below. Submissions will be open from January 1, 2025, until April 18, 2025. It is strongly recommended that applicants read the **OSSTF/FEESO Faculty of Education Award: Criteria Explanations** (found below) before applying. The OSSTF/FEESO Faculty of Education Advisory Work Group will consider all applications received and will recommend to the Provincial Executive one applicant from each eligible faculty of education who best exemplifies the award criteria to be the Award Recipient from that faculty.

2. Once the Provincial Executive has confirmed the award recipients, OSSTF/FEESO will forward the award cheque and letter of congratulations to those recipients and will inform the Deans of the Faculties of Education of the name of the recipient from their respective faculty.

OSSTF/FEESO Faculty of Education Award: Criteria Explanation

Explanations and/or examples of the criteria are included below. These are not necessarily exhaustive nor should they be considered mandatory or checklists. This is just to give you an idea of the kinds of things that OSSTF/FEESO had in mind when it created the criteria. These criteria are listed in order of importance, with #1 being most important.

Criteria 1

I am an advocate for unionism and related OSSTF values. I support a strong, publicly-funded education system. I recognize the importance of supporting the collective power of unions.

This is getting at activities you might perhaps have been involved with either as an organizer, assistant or attendee, at either the faculty or perhaps at your placements which could be characterized as union-related. For example:

- being the student representative from I/S or Tech on the faculty's Teacher Education Liaison Committee (TELC);
- assisting with OSSTF/FEESO presentations or workshops at your faculty (Federation Day, Boundaries);
- attending local OSSTF/FEESO meetings with the local OSSTF/FEESO representative on the TELC;
- attending OSSTF/FEESO meetings (on your practicum placements, at AMPA, at OTF Symposium); and/or,
- supporting unions on campus or in the community.

N.B. An applicant who participated actively on the TELC as the OSSTF/FEESO representative may be given preference if there are several applicants whose applications are otherwise equally strong.

Criteria 2

I have demonstrated a high degree of professional competence.

It should be noted that professional competence does not necessarily mean high marks. Examples of possible things to include here might be your practicum evaluations or practice teaching reports, or letters of reference from professors, instructors or associate teachers, or perhaps even from students.

Criteria 3

I have demonstrated political or social activism that promotes the professional nature of teaching.

This is getting at activities you might perhaps have been involved in, either as an organizer or as a participant, at either the faculty or perhaps at your placements, which could be characterized as political activism or social activism. It is part of OSSTF's ideals to help make the world a better place. What were you involved in which promotes awareness of social justice issues, social consciousness, or social responsibility at the faculty, on your practicum placements and/or in your community?

Criteria 4

I have shown leadership by supporting and advocating for fellow Teacher Candidates.

What activities have you been involved with at your faculty which could be characterized as supporting or advocating for your fellow Teacher Candidates? Were you involved with student government, or campus committees? Were you involved with organizing or assisting with other events or activities such as workshops or conference days or job fairs? Did you participate in or contribute to such things as discussion forums or lesson-plan sharing or presenting workshops over and above the expectations of your pre-service program?

Criteria 5

My priority is to secure a teaching position that would make me an OSSTF/FEESO member.

To which Ontario public boards have you submitted applications or are you actively seeking employment? In which Ontario public boards did you have – or attempt to have – a practicum placement?

Which Ontario Faculty of Education are you currently attending?

Please click this box if you have connected with the OSSTF/FEESO representative on the TELC regarding this application