



About the Program

The MacVicar Faculty Fellows Program is named for the late Margaret MacVicar, Professor of Physical Science and Dean for Undergraduate Education. The program recognizes faculty who have made exceptional and lasting contributions to undergraduate teaching and education at the Institute. Fellows form an Institute-wide community of scholars who have had a deep and lasting impact on their departments, curricular innovation at MIT, and the lives of countless students.

How Fellows Are Selected

MacVicar Faculty Fellows are nominated by their colleagues, and the selection process is highly competitive. Nominations are reviewed by an Advisory Committee made up of faculty and two current MIT undergraduates; the Provost appoints new Fellows based on the Committee's recommendations.

Who Is Eligible?

All full-time members of the regular faculty are eligible—no matter their rank or other positions (e.g. an endowed chair). Appointments vary depending on tenure status:

- Tenured faculty: Appointed for a ten-year term
- Junior faculty: Eligible for a three-year term, which can be converted to a ten-year term if tenure is granted (total appointment not exceeding ten years)

Because sustained contributions are a key expectation, junior faculty members are rarely appointed, especially early in their career.

The Prize

Fellows receive \$10,000 per year during their term in discretionary funds to support educational activities, research, travel, and other scholarly expenses.

How to Nominate

Submit your nomination packet as a single PDF file to macvicarprogram@mit.edu by **Friday, November 20, 2026**. The Curriculum & Faculty Support team in the Registrar's Office will confirm receipt by email and prepare your materials for review by the Advisory Committee.

New Fellows will be announced in March.

What to Include in Your Nomination Packet

1. **Primary nomination letter** — This is the cornerstone of your packet. It should detail the nominee's contributions to undergraduate education, their teaching record, and impact on students.
 - The primary nomination letter is typically (though not always) written by the nominee's department head and about 2-4 pages in length.
2. **Three to six supporting letters from colleagues** — These letters should be, at minimum, 1-2 pages long and are most effective when they include specifics such as personal observations of the nominee's teaching, concrete examples of curricular innovation or pedagogical improvements, or detailed references to contributions outside the classroom (e.g. course development, advising, mentoring, etc.).
 - *If the primary nomination letter is not written by the department head, one of these letters must be.*
3. **Three to six letters from undergraduate students or alumni** — These letters are typically about one page each and often make the most difference to the Advisory Committee. They should describe the nominee's classroom teaching and effectiveness, ways they've contributed outside class, and/or their impact on the student personally.
 - Note that fewer enthusiastic letters are more impactful than several perfunctory ones.
4. **The nominee's curriculum vitae**
5. **A list of undergraduate subjects taught** — Include the number of students in each.
6. **A summary of student evaluation results** — A template is available at:
<https://registrar.mit.edu/faculty-curriculum-support/faculty-awards/margaret-macvicar-faculty-fellows-program/how-nominate>

Need Help?

Contact Piero Chacon, Assistant Dean for Curriculum & Faculty Support, at pieroc@mit.edu or 617-253-9763.

About Margaret MacVicar

Margaret MacVicar's contributions to MIT were transformative. She created the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) in 1969. As Dean for Undergraduate Education from 1985-1990, she revitalized the humanities, arts, and social sciences requirement, overhauled the science distribution requirement, and refined the pass/no credit grading system for freshmen. Former MIT President Paul E. Gray called her "an extraordinary innovator, leader and educator" with "a remarkable combination of ability, insight, judgment and energy which is rare in any generation." Former President Charles Vest summarized: "Margaret MacVicar was one of those rare individuals whose thoughts and actions transformed a great institution and influenced thousands of young men and women."