National Award

Dr. Elaine Turner is an associate professor in the Food Science and Human Nutrition Department at the University of Florida. She teaches life cycle nutrition and co-developed lecture and online graduate courses on dietary supplements, but her primary responsibility is teaching introductory nutrition. Dr. Turner expanded the availability of this popular course to include honors and distance sections, and was recognized when the initial videotape-based distance education course was awarded a Silver Medal by the Agricultural Communicators in Education. Over the past 10 years, she has taught more than 5,400 students.

Dr. Turner serves as undergraduate coordinator and honors coordinator for the largest undergraduate program in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS). She is co-author of two introductory nutrition texts that are used by over 200 colleges and universities worldwide and have been endorsed by the American Dietetic Association; they are the first and only texts to receive this recognition. Her scholarship activities address the effect of technology and traditional classroom methods on performance in the discipline.

Dr. Turner has been recognized as CALS Undergraduate Teacher of the Year, CALS Undergraduate Advisor of the Year, and UF Honors Professor of the Year. For four consecutive years she was selected by a top UF freshman or sophomore student as a “teacher who has greatly influenced them so far.”

Dr. Turner received her B.S. degree from Kansas State University and earned M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Purdue University.