

Dear Colleagues,

The Graduate College is delighted to announce *The 2022 Graduate College Outstanding Dissertation Awards*. These \$1,000 dissertation awards are in alignment with the Council of Graduate School's (CGS) awards, which are given in 4 different categories on a rotating basis: a) Math, Physical Sciences and Engineering, b) Humanities and Fine Arts, c) Social Sciences, d) Biological and Life Sciences. Texas State dissertations that fall into these categories will be eligible to participate.

For 2022, the award categories are as follows:

1) Social Sciences

This category includes Anthropology, Criminal Justice, Education, and Geography

2) Mathematics, Physical Sciences, and Engineering

Mathematics, Computer Science, MSEC, Geography (specifically, Geology and Geophysics)

Please note that these categories are not based on the student's affiliation with an academic department, but on the research topic and approach of the dissertation. If a dissertation is multi-or interdisciplinary, a significant portion of the work must be comprised by at least one of the 2022 fields of competition.

The Graduate College is inviting each doctoral program to submit **one** unusually outstanding dissertation. The Graduate College will submit the winners of the on-campus competition to CGS's outstanding dissertation competition, where they stand to win an additional \$2,000 honorarium, a certificate of recognition, plus reasonable travel expenses for the awardee to attend the 2022 CGS meeting in San Francisco, L.A. (Dec. 7-10, 2022) where the award will be presented.

Eligibility:

- The effective date of degree award, or the completion of doctoral requirements and dissertation, must lie between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2022 (inclusive).
- The dissertations must represent original work that makes an unusually significant contribution to the discipline. Both methodology and substantive quality will be judged.

Materials:

1. **An abstract** of the nominee's dissertation not to exceed ten double-spaced pages. Appendices containing non-textual materials, such as references, charts and tables, may be included as additional pages (not to exceed 5 pages). The pages should be numbered, and each should bear the name of the nominee.

The abstract must summarize the work of the dissertation. In other words, it must

- a) first state the topic of the dissertation,
- b) contextualize the research question within the literature of the field,
- c) present the methodology, and
- d) discuss the findings and their impact on the field (i.e., discussing the originality of the work, and its significance).

It is highly recommended that nominees make use of the full ten pages, use subheadings for items a-d, and seek the input of their faculty advisor(s) and or colleagues on the draft to be submitted.

2. **Letters from three referees** evaluating the significance and quality of the nominee's dissertation work. One letter must be from the nominee's dissertation supervisor nominating the student, while another letter must be from a member of the nominee's dissertation committee. A third letter may be from a referee of the nominee's choosing; however, it must be from someone who is very familiar with the nominee's dissertation research. Each letter should be two to three pages long.

Letters of recommendation must explain in detail in which ways the dissertation makes an unusually strong contribution to the field. It is important that letters don't just assert the quality of the dissertation but explain how/why it is of quality. Each letter should

- a) provide a very brief synopsis of the dissertation project and
- b) address
 - i. its originality,
 - ii. its significance, and
 - iii. its quality of research and clarity of writing.

The chair of the dissertation committee also ought to discuss the nominee's placement (i.e., post-doc, faculty position, industry position, etc.) at the end of the letter.

3. **The nominee's CV** (not to exceed five pages)

Selection:

A committee appointed by the Graduate Dean will recommend the awardees to the Dean of The Graduate College who makes the final selection. Evaluation criteria are the unusually significant contribution to the field, as evidenced by the originality, significance, and quality (research and communication). Nominations that exceed the above-listed page limits or that are incomplete will be disqualified. The Graduate Dean will nominate one dissertation in each category to CGS. Upon the recommendation of the selection committee, the Graduate Dean may ask the nominee and/or letter writers to revise their documents before they are submitted to CGS.

Deadline:

Materials must be submitted **as a single PDF** to graduatecollegedean@txstate.edu by **May 31, 2022 (11:59 pm) by the doctoral program director**. Please include "CGS Dissertation Award [Discipline]" in the subject line of the email submission.

Questions should be addressed to: Andrea Golato, Dean, The Graduate College, graduatecollegedean@txstate.edu

We look forward to working with you in promoting the research accomplishments of our graduate students.

Best regards,

Andrea Golato
Dean, The Graduate College