



Annual Thesis and Dissertation Awards

Deadline for Nominations: February 2, 2024

The Graduate School seeks nominations for an Outstanding Thesis award and an Outstanding Dissertation award, in two different subject areas each, to recognize and honor outstanding research and scholarship at the graduate level. Each college is invited to nominate **two theses in each of the two categories** of thesis awards and to nominate **two dissertations in each of the two categories** of dissertation awards. **Theses and dissertations cannot be embargoed and must be open access at the time of nomination**, including the ECU repository (The Scholarship) and the ProQuest databases. The award winners will be recognized during the ECU Research and Creative Achievement Week (RCAW) awards luncheon in April 2024.

Criteria for Selection

The substantive, methodological, and writing quality of theses and dissertations, as well as contribution to the field or discipline, will be evaluated. A selection committee made up of one graduate faculty member from each college will review nomination materials and forward a recommendation to the Dean of the Graduate School for approval. Categories are chosen to best match regional and national competitions.

Eligibility and Categories for Master's Thesis Award for 2024

The thesis completion and graduation date must be from July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023.

- I. **Mathematics, Physical Sciences, & Engineering (1 Award)**, includes physics, chemistry (excluding biochemistry), astronomy, atmospheric sciences, geology, earth sciences, oceanography, metallurgy, mathematics, statistics, computer sciences, and engineering
- II. **Humanities & Fine Arts (1 Award)**, includes history, classics, comparative literature, linguistics, speech, American studies, archeology, art, music, philosophy, theology, religion, theater, language, literature, and architecture

***Categories for 2025 will be Life Sciences and Social Sciences, Business, & Education**

The winner of the thesis award is submitted to the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools competition in November 2024. <http://www.csgs.org/awards/master-thesis-award/>

Eligibility and Categories for Doctoral Dissertation Award for 2024

The dissertation completion and graduation date must be from July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023.

- I. **Mathematics, Physical Sciences, & Engineering (1 Award)**, includes physics, chemistry (excluding biochemistry), astronomy, atmospheric sciences, geology, earth sciences, oceanography, metallurgy, mathematics, statistics, computer sciences, and engineering
- II. **Social Sciences, Business, & Education (1 Award)**, includes anthropology, business and management, communications, demography, economics, education, geography, government, international relations, political science, public policy, psychology, sociology, urban studies

***Categories for 2025 will be Life Sciences and Humanities & Fine Arts**

The winner of the dissertation award is submitted to the Council of Graduate Schools competition in July 2024. <https://cgsnet.org/about/awards-2/cgs-proquest-distinguished-dissertation/>

Submission of Nominations

Each college will be invited to submit two nominations for each thesis category and two nominations for each dissertation category.

Nominations must include the following:

1. Formal nomination memo from the student's mentor/major professor, addressing: (a) the originality of the work, (b) the thoughtful application of methodology utilized, (c) the quality of the writing, and (d) the contribution to the field.
2. Current CV or resume of student: This should include any relevant publications and/or products (maximum of 2 pages).

The same thesis/dissertation cannot be nominated in two categories.

A spreadsheet of all eligible theses and dissertations from the years described earlier is available in the GPDC SharePoint site: [Thesis and Dissertations Eligible for 2024 Awards.xlsx](#). The document is in a folder titled Awards Materials 2024. Faculty and Staff should have access to this [SharePoint](#) with ECU Pirate ID/passphrase. If you cannot enter this site, please contact Plummer Nye at nyep@ecu.edu.

Deadline and Procedure for Submissions

- Deadline: Nominations must be received by the Graduate School no later than February 2, 2024.
- Associate deans will email nominations from their respective college to Michelle Eble, Grad School Faculty Fellow (eblem@ecu.edu) with the above information attached.

Awards

The Thesis and Dissertations Selections Committee will choose the first-place thesis and dissertation in each of the categories listed above, with judging to be completed in February, and to be recognized during RCAW 2024. Additional materials, including letters of recommendation and a lay summary of the thesis/dissertation, may be required of awardees for announcement purposes and consideration for submission to regional and national awards. We ask that all nominees and mentors agree to provide all necessary support documents for subsequent regional or national competitions should the nominee be selected as the category winner. **The award winners will be recognized at the Research & Creative Week awards luncheon in April 2024.**

Questions

Please direct any questions to Michelle Eble, Faculty Fellow (eblem@ecu.edu)

Thank you for supporting our Graduate Students!