



## Annual Thesis and Dissertation Awards Deadline for Nominations: January 15, 2025

The Graduate School seeks nominations for the Outstanding Thesis awards and the Outstanding Dissertation awards to recognize and honor outstanding graduate student research and scholarship. 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.

### Criteria for Selection

The substantive, methodological, and writing quality of theses and dissertations, as well as contributions 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 2025

The thesis completion and graduation date must be from July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2024.

**Life Sciences (1 Award)**, includes biological anthropology, biological sciences, biomedical sciences, biophysics, biostatistics, epidemiology, exercise science, nursing, and psychobiology

**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

One winner of the thesis award is submitted to the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools competition in November 2025. <http://www.csgs.org/awards/master-thesis-award/>

**\*Categories for 2026 will be Mathematics, Physical Sciences, & Engineering and Humanities & Fine Arts**

### Eligibility and Categories for Doctoral Dissertation Award for 2025

The dissertation completion and graduation date must be from July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2024.

**Life Sciences (1 Award)**, includes biological anthropology, biological sciences, biomedical sciences, biophysics, biostatistics, epidemiology, exercise science, nursing, and psychobiology

**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

One winner of the dissertation award is submitted to the Council of Graduate Schools competition in July 2025. <https://cgsnet.org/about/awards-2/cgs-proquest-distinguished-dissertation/> <https://cgsnet.org/node/476>

**\*Categories for 2026 will be Mathematics, Physical Sciences, & Engineering and Social Sciences, Business, & Education**

## 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:

- 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.
- 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 2025 Awards.xlsx. The document is in a folder titled [Awards 2025](#). 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](mailto:nyep@ecu.edu).

### Deadline and Procedure for Submissions

- Deadline: Nominations must be received by the Graduate School no later than **January 15, 2025**.
- Associate deans will email nominations from their respective college to Kathy Cox, Graduate School Associate Dean ([coxka@ecu.edu](mailto:coxka@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 RCAF 2025. 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 March/April 2025.**

## Questions

Please direct any questions to Kathy Cox, Graduate School Associate Dean ([coxka@ecu.edu](mailto:coxka@ecu.edu))

**Thank you for supporting our Graduate Students!**