



# Cleveland State University

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## College of Graduate Studies

### 2017-2018 GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: November 1, 2017 by 12:00 noon**  
**AWARD DECISIONS ARE EXPECTED BY THE FIRST WEEK OF DECEMBER 2017**

**AWARD (AND 3MT) WINNERS WILL BE RECOGNIZED IN AN AWARD CEREMONY  
TO BE HELD IN SPRING 2017**

The College of Graduate Studies will recognize the achievements of graduate students within two categories, A) Graduate Student Awards and B) Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Awards

#### **A. Graduate Student Awards**

##### **PURPOSE**

The College of Graduate Studies is pleased to announce a call for graduate student awards. The purpose of these awards is to recognize graduate student achievements in four areas: 1) research and creative scholarship, 2) thesis and dissertation, 3) teaching, and 4) engagement and social advocacy. Some of these areas are further divided into categories. In each category there will be an Outstanding Achievement award and an Excellent Achievement award. The monetary prize associated with each Outstanding Achievement award is \$500 (five hundred dollars), and the monetary prize associated with each Excellent Achievement award is \$250 (two hundred fifty dollars). The nominee must:

- be a current CSU graduate student or be no more than one year past graduation,
- must have a GPA of 3.0 or better and be in good academic standing at the time of nomination.

An eligible graduate student may be nominated and considered for more than one award; provided, however, no nominee shall receive more than one award (except that a nominee may receive a 3MT (Three Minute Thesis) award in tandem with another award). See Section B for information on the 3MT Awards.

#### **RESEARCH AND CREATIVE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS**

##### **Graduate Student Outstanding / Excellent Achievement Award**

This award recognizes and rewards graduate students for sustained and substantial research and creative scholarship contributions in their field of study. This award is intended to reward substantial research achievements beyond the master's thesis and doctoral dissertation, for research conducted either prior, or in addition to, the thesis or dissertation. Research must have been conducted while a graduate student at Cleveland State University. Students seeking to apply for an

award based on thesis and dissertation work, should apply instead for the Thesis or Dissertation Award.

One Outstanding Achievement award and one Excellent Achievement award will be granted to a doctoral or master's student in each of three categories:

Research in Natural Sciences (incl. Health Sciences), Engineering, and Mathematics  
 Research in Law, Education, Social Sciences and Humanities  
 Creative Scholarship

## **THESIS AND DISSERTATION AWARDS**

These awards are granted to graduate students for research that is being conducted for a master's thesis or doctoral dissertation which has the potential to make a substantial contribution to their field. Prior to the submission deadline for this award, the student must have successfully defended the thesis/dissertation proposal and must have on file with the College of Graduate Studies a *Master's Thesis or Dissertation Proposal Approval form* with the required signatures. A total of eight awards will be granted as follows: One Outstanding Thesis/Dissertation Award and one Excellent Thesis/Dissertation Award will be granted for one master's thesis and one dissertation in each category below:

Research in Natural Sciences (incl. Health Sciences), Engineering, and Mathematics  
 Research in Law, Education, Social Sciences, and Humanities

## **TEACHING AWARDS**

### **Graduate Student Teaching Award**

These awards are granted to graduate students who have demonstrated extraordinary performance in teaching as the instructor of record. The successful nominees will demonstrate the ability to facilitate student learning, the willingness and ability to solicit and reflect on feedback about teaching and implement changes for improvement, excellent knowledge and enthusiasm for course subject matter, and the ability to utilize a variety of teaching strategies appropriate to the course content.

### **Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Award**

These awards are granted to graduate students who have demonstrated excellence in assisting the course instructor of record as a course grader, course tutor, review session instructor, lab instructor, or in another supportive teaching role. The successful nominee will demonstrate the ability to facilitate student learning, the willingness and ability to solicit and reflect on feedback about teaching and implement changes for improvement, and excellent knowledge and enthusiasm for the course subject matter.

## ENGAGEMENT AND SOCIAL ADVOCACY AWARDS

### Graduate Student Engagement and Social Advocacy Award

This award will be granted to two graduate students who have demonstrated an exemplary commitment to helping disenfranchised and disempowered groups through community engagement and/or social justice advocacy. The nominee's commitment to engagement and/or social justice must be mutually beneficial to student learning, academic scholarship and community well-being, and be demonstrated through practice, research or professional service in their field.

### GUIDELINES FOR NOMINATION SUBMISSION

Successful nominees must submit a clear and well-organized nomination package **IN A SINGLE PDF DOCUMENT**. Faculty reviewers will be from many different fields across the University, therefore the Project Summary or Teaching Statement should be written in plain English that is clear and unambiguous so that the proposal is understandable to readers completely outside of the discipline. Nonetheless, the intellectual underpinnings of the work should be clear. Nominees may submit nominations for more than one award; provided, however, that each nomination must be materially different and tailored to the particular award to which it is directed. Submitting identical nominations for more than one award may result in disqualification from one or all award categories. The format described below must be followed rigorously; non-compliance with the format or failure to submit all materials by the submission deadline will result in the disqualification of a nomination. All nomination materials must be sent via email in **A SINGLE PDF ATTACHMENT** to Maribeth Kralik at [m.a.kralik@csuohio.edu](mailto:m.a.kralik@csuohio.edu). Please put **“GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD SUBMISSION”** on the subject line in all capital letters. **REMINDER: THERE IS NO NEED TO NOMINATE A GRADUATE STUDENT FOR THE 3MT AWARD BEYOND THEIR SUCCESSFUL PARTICIPATION IN THE 3MT COMPETITION.**

### NOMINATION MATERIALS

**Nomination Cover Page:** (attached)

**Nomination letter:**

The nomination letter should be from the Research/Creative Scholarship Supervisor (for the Research and Creative Scholarship Awards, and the Thesis and Dissertation Awards), or the Program Director, Department Chair, or Faculty member (for the Teaching, as well as the Engagement and Social Advocacy Awards). If the Supervisor writing the nomination letter is not a CSU faculty member, that nomination should also be accompanied by a letter of support from the Program Director, Department Chair, or CSU Faculty member familiar with the nominee's work.

Nomination letters should describe the significance of the nominee's contributions relevant to the award criteria. The letter should specify the nominee's substantive contributions to the final product (i.e., for Research/Creative Scholarship, Thesis and Dissertation, and Engagement/Social Advocacy), particularly if the work or achievement was co-authored or a group or team effort. It should also specify the nominee's unique contribution, the significance of the nominee's

contribution, and the credentials of the nominee relative to the standards of his or her discipline. For the Research/Creative Scholarship and Thesis/Dissertation Awards, the nominator should comment on the stage of completion of the work, timeline for completion, and plan for dissemination of the findings. Note that for the Thesis and Dissertation Awards, the nominee must have successfully defended their proposal prior to the submission deadline for this award. For the Engagement/Social Advocacy Award, the nomination letter should attest to the relevance and rigor of the applicant's activity with a statement on the impact the work has made within the community.

**Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae: 2 page maximum (one-inch margins, single spaced, 12 pt. font)**

**Project Summary or Teaching Statement: 1 page maximum (one-inch margins, single spaced, 12 pt. font)**

This should include an abstract or summary of the research or creative scholarship, thesis or dissertation, teaching, or engagement and social advocacy activity for which the student is being nominated. For the engagement/social advocacy award, the nominee should demonstrate the impact of the activity and the ability to sustain or replicate it.

**Appendices:**

Nominees may submit evidence of their accomplishments. Examples include: published articles, drafts, conference proceedings or presentations, and a thesis or dissertation. Other examples of evidence that may be included in this section: Impact factor and other evidence of journal quality for published articles, number of citations or downloads of published articles, evidence of peer review and acceptance rates for journal articles and conference presentations, evidence of awards and recognitions or grants earned, evidence of the significance of the contribution to the field and/or the impact on students (e.g., teaching evaluations, letters of support, or evidence of innovation and creativity) or the community (e.g., letters from professionals or community members substantiating the nominee's contributions to engagement and social advocacy, or evidence of innovation and creativity).

**Evaluation:**

Please see evaluation forms to help inform and guide your submission. These forms will be completed by the Graduate Student Awards Committee members during review.

**B. 3 Minute Thesis (3MT) Awards  
3MT (THREE MINUTE THESIS) AWARDS**



One Outstanding Achievement award and one Excellent Achievement award will be granted to the first and second place winners, respectively, in the Cleveland State University 3MT (Three Minute Thesis) Competition. Oral communication of a student's research to an educated layperson is often lacking in graduate programs. The University of Queensland developed a program where students summarize their research in 3 minutes or less using pre-determined guidelines. The format is one where students make a presentation in 3 minutes and a panel of judges scores each student to determine a final winner. Cleveland State University hosts a qualifying competition to decide which student will represent our university at the regional competition sponsored by the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools. **THERE IS NO NEED TO NOMINATE A GRADUATE STUDENT FOR THE 3MT AWARD BEYOND THEIR SUCCESSFUL PARTICIPATION IN THE 3MT COMPETITION.** In addition, this is the only graduate student award that may be won in tandem with a second award.

#### **ENTRY:**

The Cleveland State University 3MT (Three Minute Thesis) Competition is held in January or February each year. To participate, eligible graduate students must e-mail Maribeth Kralik at [m.a.kralik@csuohio.edu](mailto:m.a.kralik@csuohio.edu). Please put **“THREE MINUTE THESIS COMPETITION ENTRY”** on the subject line in all capital letters. In addition, your e-mail must include the title of your thesis or dissertation as well as a letter, statement or e-mail from the chair of your thesis or dissertation committee certifying that you are eligible to participate. **Enrolled masters and doctoral candidates** who have successfully passed their confirmation milestone (including candidates whose thesis is under submission) by the date of their first presentation **are eligible to participate. Graduates are not eligible.**

#### **RULES:**

- A single static PowerPoint slide is permitted (no slide transitions, animations or 'movement' of any description, the slide is to be presented from the beginning of the oration).
- No additional electronic media (e.g. sound and video files) are permitted.
- No additional props (e.g. costumes, musical instruments, laboratory equipment) are permitted.
- Presentations are limited to 3 minutes maximum and competitors exceeding 3 minutes are disqualified.
- Presentations are to be spoken word (e.g. no poems, raps or songs).
- Presentations are to commence from the stage.
- Presentations are considered to have commenced when a presenter starts their presentation through movement or speech.
- The decision of the adjudicating panel is final.

#### **JUDGING CRITERIA:**

## 1. Comprehension & Content

- Did the presentation provide an understanding of the background to the research question being addressed and its significance?
- Did the presentation clearly describe the key results of the research including conclusions and outcomes?
- Did the presentation follow a clear and logical sequence?
- Was the thesis topic, key results and research significance and outcomes communicated in language appropriate to a non-specialist audience?
- Did the speaker avoid scientific jargon, explain terminology and provide adequate background information to illustrate points?
- Did the presenter spend adequate time on each element of their presentation - or did they elaborate for too long on one aspect or was the presentation rushed?

## 2. Engagement

- Did the oration make the audience want to know more?
- Was the presenter careful not to trivialize or generalize their research?
- Did the presenter convey enthusiasm for their research?
- Did the presenter capture and maintain their audience's attention?
- Did the speaker have sufficient stage presence, eye contact and vocal range; maintain a steady pace, and have a confident stance?
- Did the PowerPoint slide enhance the presentation - was it clear, legible, and concise?

Visit [www.ThreeMinuteThesis.org](http://www.ThreeMinuteThesis.org) to learn more.