



## Texas Tech University Outstanding Thesis and Dissertation Award Recipients

Texas Tech University's Graduate School recognized work displayed in students' theses and dissertations for the annual 2017 awards, funded in part by the Helen Jones Foundation.

The first-place dissertation award winners will be entered into the Council of Graduate School's annual CGS/ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award competition, which honors the dissertations that represent original work and significant contributions to the discipline being considered for the year. Students are nominated by their faculty representatives.

### Biological Life Sciences

- **1st place master's thesis – Hannah Ashbaugh** - [Department of Natural Resources Management](#)  
*Environmental availability and potential influences of heavy metals on snowy plovers in the Southern Great Plains of Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma*  
Nominated by Dr. Warren Conway
- **1st place doctoral dissertation – Mandana Pahlavani** - [Department of Nutritional Sciences](#)  
*Cellular and Molecular Basis for Omega 3 Polyunsaturated Fatty Acid Regulation of Brown Adipose Tissue*  
Nominated by Dr. Naima Moustaid-Moussa
- **2nd place doctoral dissertation – Amanda Cano** - [Department of Environmental Toxicology](#)  
*Determination of carbon-based nanomaterial distribution, toxicity, and trophic transfer in aquatic environments*  
Nominated by Dr. Jaclyn Canas-Carrell

### Humanities and Fine Arts

- **1st place master's thesis – Garret McDonald** - [Department of History](#)  
*Prisoners at War: Soviet Forced Labor and the Second World War*  
Nominated by Dr. Alan Barenberg
- **2nd place master's thesis – Aaron Wood** - [School of Theatre and Dance](#)  
*Performing Masculine Perfection: Eugen Sandow's American Male Ideal*  
Nominated by Dr. Dorothy Chansky
- **1st place doctoral dissertation – Joy Cooney McMurrin** - [Department of English](#)  
*Negotiating the Supermarket: A Critical Approach to Nutrition Literacy Among Low-income Consumers*  
Nominated by Dr. Sam Dragga
- **2nd place doctoral dissertation – Jeannie Bennett** - [Department of English](#)  
*An Unhealthy Drama: A Burkean Analysis of Mental Illness Rhetorics*  
Nominated by Dr. Amy Koerber

The Graduate School recognizes theses and dissertations of mathematics, physical sciences, engineering and social sciences in even numbered years, and biological life sciences, humanities and fine arts in odd years.