

Texas Tech University Outstanding Thesis and Dissertation Awards

Overview: The Graduate School is pleased to announce its Outstanding Thesis and Dissertation Awards competition for 2021. We have adopted the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) outstanding dissertation program for award criteria and rotation for field of study. TTU award recipients will receive monetary prizes and first place dissertation award recipients will also be nominated to CGS as part of their annual CGS/ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award competition to recognize an outstanding dissertation representing original work that makes an unusually significant contribution to the discipline being considered that year.

Criteria: Awards will be given annually according to the designated research topic. See expanded list at the end of announcement:

- **Odd Years: Biological Life Sciences; Humanities/ Fine Arts – 2021 fields of competition**
- **Even Years: Social Sciences; Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Engineering – 2022 fields of competition**

*Theses and Dissertations may be considered from current year and 2 years prior (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2021) and must represent original work. Degrees must be confirmed before any theses or dissertations are eligible.

Awards: Social Sciences

Dissertation – 1st Place - \$1,500; 2nd Place - \$750
Thesis – 1st Place - \$1,000; 2nd Place - \$500

Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Engineering

Dissertation – 1st Place - \$1,500; 2nd Place - \$750
Thesis – 1st Place - \$1,000; 2nd Place - \$500

**University employees - Cash awards are taxed and must be processed through payroll. Current students who are not University employees – awards are processed through Student Business Services and applied to your account going towards any tuition and fee balance first. Awardees who have already graduated are processed through a W-9 and paid directly through purchasing.*

Timeline:

May 21 – Nominations are due to the Graduate School
June 17 – Awards announced
July 2 – Winning applicable dissertation in each category is nominated to CGS
December – CGS notifies winners

Nomination Process:

For nomination purposes, please submit a nomination letter and a 2-3 page abstract of the thesis/dissertation. The nomination letter should address why the thesis/dissertation is being nominated and the significant contribution the research makes to the discipline.

Nominations may be submitted by any TTU graduate faculty member online
<https://app.smarterselect.com/programs/69316-Texas-Tech-Graduate-School>

Questions: gradfellowships@ttu.edu

Selection:

- The Dean of the Graduate School's committee will select the winners based on the nominations from each college.

- Committee member must step down and be replaced if the member has a conflict with the nominated dissertation.
- All nominating committee members at each level must be graduate faculty.
- The first place dissertation award in each category that fits the CGS categories will be nominated to the Council of Graduate School's yearly recognition competition.

If the dissertation is chosen to be forwarded on to CGS – the following requirements also apply:

- Extended abstract (not to exceed 10 double-spaced pages). Appendices containing other material, such as charts, tables, and/or references, may be included as additional pages.
- Three letters of reference evaluating the significance and quality of the nominee's dissertation work. One of these letters is to be from the nominee's dissertation supervisor, another from a member of the nominee's dissertation committee, and the third from a person of the nominee's choice.
- A brief CV (not to exceed 5 pages).

The CGS categories as shown on their website <http://www.cgsnet.org/cgsproquest-distinguished-dissertation-award> are as follows:

- Even Years: Social Sciences, Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Engineering
Math, Physical Sciences and Engineering include - *Mathematics, statistics, computer sciences, data processing, systems analysis, chemistry, earth sciences, physics, geology, meteorology, astronomy, metallurgy, geophysics, pharmaceutical chemistry, aeronautical, architectural, biomedical, ceramic, chemical, civil, and electrical engineering sciences; environmental health engineering; geological, mechanical, mining, nuclear, and petroleum engineering (not including engineering technologies).*
Social sciences include – *agricultural economics, geography, anthropology, archaeology, economics, education, sociology, political science, demography, and psychology).* **Business, Human Sciences and Mass Communications are in the social sciences category for the purposes of the TTU awards, however, they are not categories that CGS accepts nominations from.**
- Odd Years: Biological Life Sciences, Humanities, Fine Arts
Biological and Life Sciences - *biology, botany, zoology, ecology, embryology, entomology, genetics, nutrition, plant pathology, plant physiology, anatomy, biochemistry, biophysics, microbiology, pathology, pharmacology, physiology, and related fields. Also included are agriculture, forestry, and related fields.*
Humanities and Fine Arts – *history, philosophy, language, linguistics, literature, archaeology, jurisprudence; the history, theory and criticism of the arts; ethics; comparative religion; and those aspects of the social sciences that employ historical or philosophical approaches.*

If a dissertation is multi- or interdisciplinary in nature, a significant portion of the work must be comprised by at least one of the 2021 fields of competition.