



2025 CGS/ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Awards

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nomination materials due: July 3, 2025

Sponsored jointly by Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) and ProQuest Dissertations Publishing, these dissertation awards are made annually to individuals who, in the opinion of the award committee, have completed dissertations representing original work that makes an unusually significant contribution to their disciplines.

2025 Fields of Competition

There are two broad fields of competition for the 2025 dissertation awards. Under each broad field, we provide a non-inclusive list of fine fields that are considered to belong to the broader fields under consideration. If you have questions about whether a dissertation qualifies for consideration, please contact president@cgs.nche.edu.

- **Biological Sciences/Life Sciences:** biology; botany; zoology; ecology; embryology; entomology; genetics; nutrition; plant pathology; plant physiology; anatomy; biochemistry; biophysics; microbiology; pathology; pharmacology; physiology; and related fields (health sciences). Also included are agriculture, forestry, zoology; 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 2025 fields of competition.

Eligibility

- “Regular” institutional members in good standing of CGS may submit nominations.
- Each eligible member may nominate one person in the field of humanities and fine arts and one person in the field of biological and life sciences. (for a total of two nominations maximum, per institution). A separate nomination form and package must be submitted for each institutional nominee.
- The effective date of the degree awarded, or the completion of doctoral degree requirements and dissertation, must lie in the period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2025, inclusive, for each nominee selected. Such degree award or completion is to

be confirmed by the institution's graduate dean or other administrative officer responsible for doctoral degree programs (IHE1).

How to Submit a Nomination Package

A complete nomination package includes the following four components in this order:

1. A completed nomination form (remove the checklist).
2. An abstract of the nominee's dissertation (not to exceed five double-spaced pages). Appendices containing other material, such as charts, tables, and/or references, may be included as additional pages (not to exceed five pages).
3. Three letters of recommendation 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.
4. The nominee's curriculum vitae (not to exceed five pages).

Note: The nomination package must be sent as a single pdf document with the file saved as: last name of the nominee and institution (i.e. Smith_GWU) to president@cgs.nche.edu. Please indicate the field of competition in the subject line. Mailed or faxed submissions will not be accepted.

Award Information

Two CGS/ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Awards, each consisting of an award of \$2,000 and a certificate of recognition, will be presented at the CGS Annual Meeting Awards Luncheon in December 2025, in Washington, DC. Reasonable travel expenses of award recipients will be covered. Only the winners and the nominating deans will be notified of the outcomes of the competition prior to the Awards Luncheon.

Selection Process: The Council of Graduate Schools will name an Award Committee whose members have established records in the disciplinary areas under consideration. Additional consultation may be sought at the discretion of the committee members. The nominated dissertations should represent original work making an unusually significant contribution to the disciplines. Both methodological and substantive quality will be judged.

Please Note: The CGS/ProQuest Award operates on a two-year cycle with regard to fields of competition. The fields of competition for 2026 will be Mathematics, Physical Sciences & Engineering; and the Social Sciences.

Questions?

For questions about the CGS/ProQuest Dissertation Award, please contact president@cgs.nche.edu.