



Tennessee Conference of Graduate Schools (TCGS) Graduate Student Master's Thesis/Final Project Award Call for Nominations 2025

The TCGS is committed to excellence in all matters of interest to its membership, which includes recognizing the exceptional work of Tennessee graduate students. Toward that end, the TCGS graduate student thesis/ final project award is a formal recognition of these outstanding individuals. These awards are modeled after those presented by the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS).

Awards are given in four different categories on a rotating basis: (a) Math, Physical Sciences and Engineering, (b) Humanities and Fine Arts, (c) Social Sciences, Business and Education, (d) Life Sciences.

In 2025, awards will be given to

- **Humanities and Fine Arts** (1 award)—Includes, for example, History, Classics, Comparative Literature, Linguistics, Speech, American Studies, Archeology, Art, Music, Philosophy, Theology, Religion, Theater, Language, Literature, and Architecture
- **Mathematics, Physical Sciences and Engineering** (1 award)—Includes, for example, 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

Eligibility

Graduate Deans or their designee at TCGS member institutions may nominate one person per category (total of two per institution) whose thesis/final project has been accepted in partial fulfillment of the degree requirements during the past two academic years and/or summer sessions (Fall 2022 through Summer 2024).

Award

Each award will carry a \$500 stipend. Graduate student awardees are expected to present their research at the Spring TCGS meeting; presentations will occur via Zoom.

Criteria and Judging

A panel of judges will read the nominations and base their review on clarity of style and presentation, scholarship, research method, and contributions to the field or discipline.

Deadline and Nomination Materials

The Graduate Dean or nominee shall provide the following materials as part of the nomination dossier to be received no later than **December 1, 2024**. Materials must be compiled as a single PDF and named as follows:

ThesisAward-Category-LastName-FirstName-Institution.pdf

The dossier must include

- A synopsis of the thesis outlining its context within the broader field, as well as how the completed research contributes to the discipline (500-word maximum, prepared by the nominee);
- An abbreviated resume or CV for the nominee (2-page maximum, prepared by the nominee)
- A web link to the thesis/final project or an electronic copy submitted by email;
- A letter of support/endorsement from the major professor focused on the criteria by which the committee will evaluate the submitted theses. These consist of clarity of style and presentation, scholarship, research methodology, and contributions to the field or discipline; and
- Certification by the Graduate Dean or designee that the thesis was approved in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the master's degree and that the student completed the master's degree within the past two academic years and/or summer sessions (Fall 2022 through Summer 2024).

***Please note that the TCGS requirements and timeline align closely with the Council of Southern Graduate Schools Thesis Award Competition. We encourage all nominees for the TCGS award to also be submitted for the [CSGS award](#); CSGS nominations are due Nov. 15, 2024.*

Email dossiers to Dr. Wes Atkinson (atkinsonr@apsu.edu). Use the subject line "TCGS Thesis Nomination Dossier."