So You Want to Win A Graduate Student Excellence Award?

A Webinar
Anne Converse Willkomm, MFA
Graduate Student Excellence Awards Committee Chair
Assistant Clinical Professor & Department Head of Graduate Studies
Goodwin College of Professional Studies
Academic Director, Mandela Washington Fellowship Program
P: 215.571.3257
E: acw334@drexel.edu

Sandra Golis Strang, EdM
Communications and Events Manager
Graduate College
P: 215.895.0360
E: sbg38@drexel.edu

For general inquiries, email us at gradawards@drexel.edu
Graduate Student Excellence Awards

1. Outstanding Mentorship Award
2. Drexel Common Good Award
3. Research Excellence Awards
4. Outstanding Dissertation Award
5. Teaching Assistant Excellence Awards

This could be you!
Award Fast Facts

1. Graduate student awardees will be invited to receive their award(s) at the annual Graduate Student Day on **Thursday, May 28, 2020 4-6 PM ET** in Mitchell Auditorium, Bossone Research Enterprise Center on the University City Campus. The awards ceremony is followed by a reception. All are welcome to attend!

2. Graduating awardees will also be listed in the official Commencement booklet, and may be honored during their individual College/School Commencement ceremony.

3. The review committee consists of faculty and professional staff from across the University who are dedicated to a fair and balanced review process, and who want to recognize graduate students from all levels and disciplines for going above and beyond.
2019-2020 Grad Awards Review Committee

- **Chair: Anne Willkomm**, Goodwin College of Professional Studies
- **Carol Artlett**, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies, College of Medicine
- **Vikas Bhandawat**, School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems
- **Stephanie Brooks**, College of Nursing and Health Professions
- **Aroutis Foster**, School of Education
- **Jennifer Johnson Kebea**, Lindy Center for Civic Engagement
- **Adrienne Juarascio**, Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences
- **Christopher Laincz**, LeBow College of Business
- **Michelle McDermott**, Dornsife School of Public Health
- **Jaya Mohan**, Office of Undergraduate Research
- **Wesley Shumar**, Communication, College of Arts and Sciences
- **Brian Smith**, College of Computing and Informatics
- **Steven Weber**, College of Engineering
- **Andrew Zitcer**, Westphal College of Media Arts and Design

**Awards Overview**
2019-2020 TA Awards Review Subcommittee

- **Chair:** Valerie Klein, School of Education
- **Jason Cross,** College of Arts and Sciences, Chemistry
- **Kimberly David-Chung,** Drexel University Online, Student Life/EMSS, Graduate College
- **Laura Duwel,** College of Arts and Sciences, Biology
- **Alonzo Flowers,** School of Education
- **Aroutis Foster,** School of Education
- **Emest Hakanen,** College of Arts and Sciences, Communication
- **Lin Han,** School of Biomedical Engineering, Science and Health Systems
- **Mary Hovinga** or TBD, Dornsife School of Public Health
- **Sherry Levin** or TBD, College of Engineering
- **Adeladia Medlock,** College of Computing and Informatics
- **Edward Nelling,** LeBow College of Business
- **Oksana Odintsova,** College of Arts and Sciences, Mathematics
- **Jed Shumsky,** Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies, College of Medicine
- **Stella Volpe,** College of Nursing and Health Professions
- **Andrew Zitcer,** Westphal College of Media Arts and Design

**Awards Overview**
Outstanding Mentorship Award

Who Is Eligible?
• Graduate students (master's and/or doctoral level)
• Nominations also welcome for law and medical students
• Must exemplify outstanding commitment to mentoring, developing and supporting undergraduate and/or new or junior graduate students in a research or scholarly setting

Who Can Submit a Nomination?
• Student mentees (undergraduate and/or new or junior graduate students)
• Faculty and professional staff*
  • *At least one nomination must come from a student mentee, can be combined with materials in a single nomination submitted by faculty/staff
• Self nominations will not be considered for this award

How Can I Submit a Nomination?
• Those listed above can submit a completed application via the Drexel Funding Portal (InfoReady), sort Category by “Graduate Awards”
• Be sure to review the required materials: Letter of rec, supporting docs, testimonials
• Use the evaluation criteria and rubric on the website to write materials

Award Selection
• Up to two awardees will receive $250 each
• Sponsored by the Office of Undergraduate Research
Drexel Common Good Award

Who Is Eligible?
- Graduate students (master's and/or doctoral level), including online students
- Nominations also welcome for law and medical students
- Must demonstrate academic excellence and commitment to improving the world around you by making contributions to local, national or global communities through either scholarship or civic engagement

Who Can Submit a Nomination?
- Faculty and professional staff
- External supervisors, leaders or faculty/staff who can speak to your work*
  - *Should work with internal fac/staff who can attached to a nomination OR send materials to gradaward@drexel.edu
- Self nominations are welcome for this award

How Can I Submit a Nomination or Self-Nominate?
- Those listed above can submit a completed application via the Drexel Funding Portal (InfoReady), sort Category by “Graduate Awards”
- Be sure to review the required materials: Letter of rec, personal statement (if self-nom), resume/CV
- Use the evaluation criteria and rubric on the website to write materials

Award Selection
- Up to two awardees will receive $250 each
- Sponsored in part by the Lindy Center for Civic Engagement
Research Excellence Awards

Who Is Eligible?
• Graduate students (master’s and/or doctoral level), including online students
• Must have completed original, innovative research, scholarship and/or creativity
• Designed to recognize widely disseminated student research with significant impact on the field or society

Who Can Submit a Nomination?
• Full-time faculty

How Can I Submit a Nomination?
• Faculty can submit a completed application via the Drexel Funding Portal (InfoReady), sort Category by “Graduate Awards”
• Be sure to review the required materials: 2 letters of rec, personal statement, resume/CV
• Use the evaluation criteria and rubric on the website to write materials

Award Selection
• Up to four awards will be presented:
  1. A post-candidacy doctoral student (earned 45 or more credits toward his/her degree) for $750
  2. A pre-candidacy doctoral student or master’s student continuing through a doctoral program (earned less than 45 credits toward his/her degree) for $500
  3. A master’s student not counting through a doctoral program for $500
  4. A graduate student for most original and creative work for $500
Outstanding Dissertation Award

Who Is Eligible?
• PhD or doctoral-level students, including online students
• Must have achieved candidacy during this or previous academic years and are expected to complete, defend dissertation, and graduate this academic year
• Must have written original, innovative dissertations that reflect great research and have or are likely to be disseminated widely and have significant impact on the field and society

Who Can Submit a Nomination?
• The College/School’s Associate Dean for Graduate Studies or designee

How Can I Submit a Nomination?
• Submit a completed application via the Drexel Funding Portal (InfoReady), sort Category by “Graduate Awards”
• Be sure to review the required materials: 2 letters of rec, personal statement, resume/CV
• Use the evaluation criteria and rubric on the website to write materials

Award Selection
• Up to two awardees will receive $750 each
Teaching Assistant Excellence Awards

Who Is Eligible?
• Graduate students (master’s and/or doctoral level), including online students
• Nominations also welcome for law and medical students
• Must serve as Teaching Assistants (TAs) who has taught or supported at least one course, including online courses, during the current academic year

Who Can Submit a Nomination?
• Undergraduate or graduate students taught/supported by the TA
• Faculty and professional staff who work with the TA in their role (i.e. instructor for the course in which the student TA’s)
• Self-nominations will not be considered for this award

How Can I Submit a Nomination?
• Undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to nominate graduate student TAs via the Teaching Assistant Excellence Nomination Form [Qualtrics]
• Faculty and professional staff are encouraged to nominate graduate student TAs via the Drexel Funding Portal (InfoReady)

Award Selection
• Up to ten first-time awardees will receive $100 each
• In addition, repeat awardees will be recognized for continuing excellence
• All college/school finalists are recognized as “highly commended”
Self-nominations are welcome for the **Drexel Common Good Award**

Students will still need to approach a faculty, professional staff member or others for a letter of recommendation which is one of the required materials for this award.

You may approach an external supervisor, organizational leader or whomever can speak directly about you and the impact of your work.
Requesting Nominations

For all other awards, students who wish to be nominated for an award may need to approach a faculty, professional staff member of others to request a nomination.

Who to Approach

- Review who is eligible to submit a nomination for your intended award.
- It should be someone who meets the criteria and who is familiar with your work in this area.
- In some cases, you may be approaching a student or mentee.
  - Remember that you are in a role of power in this relationship and to approach with caution. You don’t want your nominator to feel any pressure.

How to Approach

- Start with a written request, such as via email, and be sure to include as much detail about the award, timeline/deadline and requested materials as possible.
  - Do note in your email that you understand if they are busy and unable to write a letter of support at this time.
- Provide your nominator with your resume/CV which has been updated specifically for the award and, if required, your personal statement.
- You should also include a list of things you’d like them to highlight related to the award criteria - related accomplishments, impact of your work on your field, community, etc., volunteer and/or leadership experience, involvement, etc.
- Offer to schedule a meeting or phone call to discuss further.
- Be sure to allow PLENTY of time for your nominator to prepare materials, at least a month if possible.
Preparing Required Materials

Letters of Recommendation
- Letters should be **personalized** and be written by someone who **really knows the nominee**, and who can articulate the **impact** of the student’s work.
- The writer should review the evaluation criteria and rubric provided and use it to frame the argument for, explaining how this student has gone above and beyond others you know.
- Better a letter come from a faculty/staff member than a Dean who is not as familiar with the student or their work.
- Letters should speak about the student’s work and impact in **lay terms** as much as possible.
- **QUALITY over QUANTITY**

Resume/CV
- Be sure to update specifically for the award criteria.
- Should NOT be the same resume as used for everything else.
- Should be as many pages as appropriate/relevant without “fluff”.

Personal Statement
- Required for Drexel Common Good (if self-nom), Research and Dissertation Awards.
- What is your research or work about in **lay terms**?
- Focus on impact of research/work on the field, in the community, etc.
- How wide-spread is the impact of your research/work?
- How is your research/work innovative, original, creative or unique compared to others?
- Did you take a different approach or look at something new? Collaborate cross-disciplines?
2019-2020 Awards Timeline

Friday, April 10 by 12PM ET: U-wide deadline to submit nominations, except Dissertation

Week of April 13: Nominations distributed to college/school committee for review

Friday, May 1 by 12PM ET: Deadline to submit new or advance college/school finalist(s) nominations via InfoReady, including Dissertation

May 4th-May 11th: University-level committee review

May 13th: Deadline to submit awardees for Commencement booklet

By Friday, May 15th: Graduate College will notify award winners by this date and invite to be recognized at Graduate Student Day

Thursday, May 28th: Graduate Student Day awards ceremony and reception 4-6p, Mitchell Auditorium, Bossone Research Center

ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: A graduate student has asked you to nominate them. Now what?
A: Put together a list of questions for the student to answer based on the award criteria to help you draft a compelling letter of recommendation.

Q: Does it look bad if I self-nominate or ask someone to nominate me?
A: No. Be a self-advocate. Also consider that faculty and professional staff may not know that this opportunity is available to you. Present them with a compelling case for how/why you qualify, and it is likely they will be happy to help if provided enough time and detailed information.

Q: What if they say no?
A: Understand that they may not be the right person to write your nomination and/or they don’t feel they can speak strongly about your qualifications, or it may not be the right time. They may also give you some feedback which is an essential part of personal and professional development. Try not to be discouraged or take it personally and try asking another qualified nominator.

Q: Is my research/work worthy of an award?
A: If you think so! Talk to your faculty advisor or mentor about your qualifications. If you have additional questions, reach out to us!
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Where can I direct my nominator if they have questions?
A: Anne or Sandra – See contact information at the beginning or end of this presentation. General inquiries can go to gradawards@drexel.edu

Q: How do I access the Drexel Funding Portal (InfoReady)?
A: Go to https://drexel.infoready4.com/ and log in with your usual Drexel email (abc123@drexel.edu) and password. If its your first time logging in, it will prompt to set up an account.

If you have trouble accessing your account, contact the InfoReady technical support team at support@infoready4.com. If you have questions about a nomination form or submission, contact us!

You should complete the nomination form and upload all required materials as a PDF document to ensure proper formatting before submitting your nomination.

Q: When will we find out if I/my nominee won?
A: By end of day Friday, May 15, 2020.
Anne Converse Willkomm, MFA
Graduate Student Excellence Awards Committee Chair
Assistant Clinical Professor & Department Head of Graduate Studies
Goodwin College of Professional Studies
Academic Director, Mandela Washington Fellowship Program
P: 215.571.3257
E: acw334@drexel.edu

Sandra Golis Strang, EdM
Communications and Events Manager
Graduate College
P: 215.895.0360
E: sbg38@drexel.edu

For general inquiries, email us at gradawards@drexel.edu