

Outstanding Dissertation Award Rubric

The **Outstanding Dissertation Awards** are presented to PhD/doctoral students who 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. This award is open to all PhD/doctoral students who have achieved candidacy during this or previous academic years and are expected to complete, defend their dissertation, and graduate this academic year. Each college/school may nominate one finalist to the University award competition.

Originality, Creativity and Significance of the Dissertation

1 (Marginal for Award)	2	3 (Worthy of Distinction)	4	5 (Exemplary)
Research problem and goals limited in originality and creativity. Design/approach was marginally innovative.		Research problem and goals are moderately original or creative. Design/approach moderately innovative.		Research problem and goals very creative or original with new and innovative ideas. Explored original topic and discovered new outcomes. Design/approach introduced new or expanded on established ideas.

External Recognition

1 (Marginal for Award)	2	3 (Worthy of Distinction)	4	5 (Exemplary)
Student has plans to present results from dissertation or dissertation-related research at conferences.		Student has been accepted to present results from dissertation or dissertation-related research as posters or presentations at conferences.		Student has published results from dissertation or dissertation-related research in peer-reviewed conference proceedings or other publications.

Internal Recognition

1 (Marginal for Award)	2	3 (Worthy of Distinction)	4	5 (Exemplary)
Student's dissertation work has not been recognized locally within Drexel.		Student's dissertation work has been recognized once or occasionally through local dissertation awards, other internal (departmental or college) recognitions or letters of support.		Student's dissertation work has been recognized multiple times through local dissertation awards, other internal recognitions or letters of support.

Impact on the Field

1 (Marginal for Award)	2	3 (Worthy of Distinction)	4	5 (Exemplary)
Student's dissertation is not likely to have an impact on the field.		Student's dissertation is important and timely and likely to have an impact on the field, based on letters of support, prestige of publication/presentation venue.		Student's dissertation is important and timely and beginning to have or has had impact on the field, based on letters of support, prestige of publication/presentation venue, citations, etc.