

Guidelines
OUTSTANDING THESIS AWARD

1. Purpose. The Outstanding Thesis Award recognizes and promotes outstanding research by Master's students. It is a testament to the contribution of Master's student research and creative activity to the life of the University, the various disciplines, and society at large. The award is given annually to that thesis deemed to be the most outstanding from those submitted to the Graduate School by students who graduated in the immediately preceding year.

2. Criteria for Selection. Criteria include quality of research methods, significance of the topic and of the findings, and validity of the conclusions, originality of concept, skill in media, and quality of artistic expression.

3. Nominations Process. Each Master's program that has a thesis option may nominate one thesis annually. Nominations, prepared by the thesis adviser with the student's approval, are to be submitted by a preannounced deadline to the Graduate School.

A nomination shall consist of the following:

- Nomination Form
- Completed Thesis
- Abstract
- Vita
- A detailed statement of the nature and importance of the thesis research according to selection criteria above, in a disciplinary and societal context. (300 words maximum)
- Supporting Documents (optional)

4. Selection Process. A faculty committee appointed by and convened by the Graduate Dean shall evaluate all nominations and select the winner. The committee shall be broadly representative of the types of Master's programs at SIU. The committee may draw up additional procedures and standards governing the nomination and selection process and criteria. If in any one year the committee feels that there is no thesis project worthy of this award, no award need be given.

5. The Award. An appropriate certificate will be provided to the recipient. The award winner will be announced at the Student Creative Activities and Research Forum in spring.