

**THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE  
OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS**

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**2025-2026**

The Graduate Student Senate (GSS) annually grants Outstanding Graduate Student awards to spotlight exemplary work performed by graduate students at the University of Oklahoma. Three awards are given each year: **(1) Overall Outstanding Graduate Student (in the amount of \$500); (2) Outstanding Teaching Assistant (in the amount of \$250), and (3) Outstanding Research Assistant (in the amount of \$250)**. To be eligible for an award, the following requirements must be fulfilled:

- A supervising professor, or a staff member currently employed at the University of Oklahoma must nominate the graduate student. Additionally, currently enrolled graduate students can nominate other graduate students, but **graduate students cannot nominate themselves.**
- The nominee must be currently enrolled at OU as a graduate student.
- The nomination form must be accompanied by a supporting letter. This supporting letter must come from the student's primary advisor/supervisor or someone familiar with the student's work/ accomplishments.
- Curriculum vitae (C.V.) and unofficial transcripts from nominated candidates.
- The student should provide a cover letter (written by the student) that includes his/her/their achievements, activities, teaching philosophy, and research experience, to demonstrate why he/she/they deserves this recognition.

**Guidelines for the required recommendation letter:**

In a typed letter (250) words or less, please outline why you have chosen to nominate/support this graduate student for an award. Each supporting letter should include the following:

- The graduate student's specific achievements (teaching, research, or other).
- The extent to which the graduate student has furthered the progress of teaching/research in his/her/their field or department or contributed to his/her/their fellow students' learning/research experience.
- The extent to which the graduate student has surpassed the expectations of average performance.

**A completed nomination packet will include the following components:**

**Packet:**

- Completed nomination form.
- One (1) letter of recommendation, 250 words or less, from the nominating professor, graduate student or the staff member.
- A curriculum vitae composed by the nominated graduate student.
- A one-page cover letter, 300 words or less, composed by the nominated graduate student.
- One (1) copy of the unofficial transcripts of the nominated graduate student.

**The full Packet must be submitted as one PDF file no later than 8 P.M. on Friday, April 14, 2026.**

NOTE: Packets received after the due date will be automatically rejected.

**All materials should be sent by email to [gssacademic@ou.edu](mailto:gssacademic@ou.edu). The Graduate Student Senate will reject incomplete applications from consideration for these awards.**

Online Forms can be found here: <https://www.ou.edu/sga/branches/graduate-student-senate/awards>

**THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE  
OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS FORM**

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**2025-2026**

I would like you to consider the following graduate student at The University of Oklahoma for an award in recognition of their outstanding efforts.

**Nominee (First and Last Name)**

----- **Student's**

**e-mail** (valid OU e-mail address)

----- **Student's**

**OU ID** -----

**Department/School** (please, give the complete name of the department or school)

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**Nominating professor/staff member/graduate student's name**

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**Nominating professor/staff member/graduate student's e-mail** (valid OU e-mail address)

**Degree Type**

Master's degree  Doctorate Degree

**Current year**

1<sup>st</sup> year  2<sup>nd</sup> year  3<sup>rd</sup> year  4<sup>th</sup> year  5<sup>th</sup> year  6<sup>th</sup> year

**Award category** (check no more than two boxes)

Teaching Assistant  Research Assistant  Overall Outstanding Graduate Student

This is to certify that I am currently employed, or enrolled, at the University of Oklahoma as a Faculty, Staff member, or Graduate Student.

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**Name (please print)**

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**Signature**