

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

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 rd, 2026.

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

All materials should be sent by email to 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>

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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)

Nominating professor/staff member/graduate student's name

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

Degree Type

☐ Master's degree ☐ Doctorate Degree

Current year

☐ 1st year ☐ 2nd year ☐ 3rd year ☐ 4th year ☐ 5th year ☐ 6th 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.

Name (please print)

Signature