



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA

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 Reaching Assistant (in the amount of \$250)**. To be eligible for an award, the following requirements must be fulfilled:

- A supervising professor, a staff member, or a currently enrolled graduate student can nominate the outstanding graduate student. The nominating person must currently be employed or enrolled at the University of Oklahoma. **Graduate students cannot nominate themselves.**
- The nominee must be currently enrolled at OU as a graduate student.
- The attached 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.
- The nominated student must provide an updated curriculum vitae and unofficial transcripts.
- The nominated student should provide a cover letter (300 words or less) that includes their achievements, activities, teaching philosophy, and research experience, to demonstrate why they deserves this recognition.

Guidelines for the required recommendation letter:

In a typed letter (250 words or less), outline why you have chosen to nominate/support this graduate student for an award. The 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 their field or department, or contributed to their fellow students' learning/research experience.
- The extent to which the graduate student has surpassed the expectations of average performance.

A complete nomination packet will include the following components:

- Completed nomination form
- One (1) letter of recommendation, 250 words or less, from the nominating professor, staff member, or nominating graduate student
- 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 8:00 p.m. on Friday, April 3rd, 2026. *Note: Application materials received after the due date will automatically be 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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NOMINATION FORM

2025–2026

Please 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 email (valid OU email address)

Student’s OU ID

Department/School (please provide the complete name of the department or school)

Nominating professor/staff member/graduate student

Nominating professor/staff member/graduate student email (valid OU email address)

Degree Type

Master’s degree Doctorate degree

Current year in student’s program

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

Award Category (check no more than two boxes)

Overall Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Research Assistant

I (the nominator) certify that I am currently employed or enrolled at the University of Oklahoma as Faculty, Staff, or Graduate Student

Name (please print)

Signature

Date