



The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA®
Office of the Senior Vice President and Provost

MEMORANDUM

TO: Directors and Chairs – Norman Campus

FROM: André-Denis G. Wright
Senior Vice President and Provost, Norman Campus

DATE: December 9, 2025

SUBJECT: Doctoral Dissertation Prize

To recognize and reward outstanding performance by graduate students, the Office of the Provost initiated two annual awards – the Doctoral Dissertation Prize and the Graduate Teaching Assistant Award.

I seek your assistance in soliciting nominations for the 2025 Doctoral Dissertation Prizes. There will be one prize in each of the following three academic areas:

Science and Engineering
Social Sciences, Education, and the Professions
Humanities and Fine Arts

Please notify faculty in your units about these awards and submit your nominations by **January 26, 2026**. An electronic form for nominations is available on the [Graduate College website](#) (scroll to “Awards of Distinction”). Direct questions to the Graduate College at gcawards@ou.edu. Final selection of the 2025 recipients by the committee is due to the Provost’s Office in April so that the award winners can be recognized at ceremonies held at the end of the spring semester.

Thank you for your assistance in recognizing our outstanding graduate students.

Attachment

cc: Norman Campus College Deans
Randy Hewes, Dean, Graduate College
Liz Karr, Senior Associate Dean, Graduate College
Will O’Donnell, Graduate College
Grey Allman, Associate Provost for Policy and Administration

2025 DOCTORAL DISSERTATION PRIZE NOMINATION

ELIGIBILITY Any student receiving a doctoral degree in a Norman-based program during the 2025 calendar year (spring/summer/fall) is eligible. One prize can be given in each of the following three academic areas:

- ♦ Science and Engineering
- ♦ Social Sciences, Education, and the Professions
- ♦ Humanities and Fine Arts

PRIZE Each prize consists of \$1,500 and an inscribed certificate. Prizes will be awarded at a public occasion where both the recipients and the departments will be honored.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE Departments with fewer than 10 doctoral degrees awarded during the calendar year of the prize can make one nomination; departments with 10 or more can nominate two. Nomination materials should include:

1. At least one letter of nomination, written for a non-specialist audience, which describes the quality, scholarly contributions, and disciplinary significance of the dissertation.
2. A letter of endorsement from the department chairperson.
3. The dissertation abstract.
4. The applicant's curriculum vitae.
5. One copy of the dissertation.
6. The names of two potential readers for the dissertation. These readers must be OU faculty members in Norman-based programs who are not members of the nominee's department or committee.

Nomination materials should be uploaded electronically through the [link on the Graduate College's Cost and Financial Aid webpage](#). Scroll to "Awards of Distinction", expand the "Provost's Doctoral Dissertation Prize" dropdown menu, and click the "Nominate" button. **The deadline is January 26, 2026.** Direct questions to the Graduate College at gcawards@ou.edu.

SELECTION PROCEDURE The Graduate Dean will constitute an *ad hoc* faculty committee charged with recommending to the Provost whether or not a nominated dissertation should be considered for a prize. The committee will be chaired by a member of the Graduate Council; the remaining membership will depend on the fields represented by the dissertations to be considered. The committee will use the submitted materials to assess the overall quality of the dissertation and its contribution to the discipline. The committee shall forward the recommendations to the Provost by April 15, 2026.