**BEST DISSERTATION AWARD**

**Eligibility**

The award is given twice a year. In the Fall (which includes the previous Summer graduates) for those who successfully defend and submit their dissertation by the Fall semester deadline. For those who finish their dissertation in the Spring semester are considered for Spring award. The recipient receives an honorarium of $1,000.

**Nomination Procedure**

Each Department may nominate one student. The nomination is due by 5 p.m. on the first Friday in November and April for the fall and spring terms, respectively.

The electronic submission needs to include in the following order:

1. Nomination form
2. Brief (3-page) CV specifically listing
   - Education and employment history
   - Honors and publications
3. Nominating letter from the Dept Chair/Program Director. The letter should comment on:
   - The candidate pool and selection process within the Dept/Program
   - The originality and importance of the research
   - Other excellence indicators, e.g., inventions, patents, job offers
4. A letter of recommendation from the dissertation advisor (max 2 pages long, single-spaced, font size 12, 1-inch margins) emphasizing the
   - The potential for significant contribution to the field
   - The nominee’s comparative publication record and the quality of the journals
5. Dissertation abstract and PDF of the papers published and submitted for journal publications (the Award Committee may request to see the entire dissertation)
6. A double-spaced lay person summary of up to one page, including a section on the significance of the research, for use in College communications and media announcements.

**Selection and Announcement of Awards**
The winner will be chosen by a faculty committee appointed by the Dean annually for this purpose in consultation with the Associate Dean for Graduate Students and the Associate Dean for Research. Selection will be based on the originality and importance of the research, and the potential for the student to make a significant contribution to the discipline. The Award will be announced via College communications on or before University graduation ceremonies in December and May each year.