

MIDWESTERN ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATE SCHOOLS

2020 Distinguished Master's Thesis Awards

The Executive Committee of the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) is soliciting nominations for the 2020 MAGS Distinguished Master's Thesis Awards. The awards are to recognize and reward distinguished scholarship and research at the master's level.

The Guidelines for the 2020 MAGS Distinguished Master's Thesis Awards are:

1. Each member institution may submit **one nomination for the award in each of the two categories** (i.e. each institution can nominate a total of 2 theses). Each nomination requires the written endorsement of the Dean of the Graduate School or equivalent official. The institution selection process is the responsibility of that individual.
2. To be considered, a thesis must contain original work that makes an unusually significant contribution to the discipline. It must be in a format that conforms to accepted disciplinary standards, and it must have been accepted as final by the degree-granting institution. Theses submitted electronically will normally be in PDF format; hyperlinks to additional materials may be included but must be verified prior to submission. Any institution wishing to submit a thesis in another electronic format should consult with the chair of the MAGS Outstanding Thesis Committee prior to doing so.
3. Nominations will be accepted in the disciplines of **Biological/Life Sciences** and **Humanities** in which the institution offers a master's degree. (For purposes of this competition, history is considered with the humanities.) Original works accepted by an institution "in lieu of thesis" (such as musical compositions, published books, works of art, computer software, etc.) may not be nominated.
4. The effective date of degree award, or the completion of master's degree requirements, must fall in the period of **July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019**, inclusive, for each nominee selected. Such degree award or completion is to be confirmed by the institution's graduate dean or other administrative officer responsible for doctoral degree programs. Since the intent of the competition is to recognize scholarship by students who are pursuing their first graduate research degree, individuals who received a Ph.D. (or comparable research degree) in any discipline prior to the writing of the master's thesis are not eligible. However, recipients of a first professional degree awarded prior to the writing of the thesis may be nominated.
5. The nomination consists of the following electronic submissions:
 - The nomination form, the abstract of the nominated thesis, and the thesis **must be submitted electronically** to **Dr. Denise Collins** at thesis@mags-net.org by **November 1, 2019**. Please use as the subject heading "MAGS Thesis." The abstract, describing the research and its significance, must not exceed 300 words and contain the title of the thesis and the name of the author, but not the name of the nominating institution.
 - Letters from the faculty mentor and (or) the Dean of the Graduate School or equivalent may accompany the nomination.
 - Those institutions unable to submit their nominated thesis electronically may send one photocopy of the thesis to the review committee by surface mail carrier. This document will NOT be returned to the institution. The deadline for receipt of the photocopied thesis will be **November 1, 2019**.

Materials submitted by surface mail should be sent to:

Dr. Denise Collins, Dean
College of Graduate and Professional Studies
Gillum Hall 240
217 North 6th Street
Indiana State University
Terre Haute, IN 47809

Each recipient of a MAGS Distinguished Master's Thesis Award will receive a \$750 honorarium. In addition, up to \$500 will be available to each recipient for travel expenses to attend the MAGS 76th Annual Meeting, April 1-3, 2020 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It is expected that the winner's institution will cover any travel expenses which exceed the \$500 provided by MAGS for the awardee to attend the meeting to receive the award. The faculty mentor or thesis advisor will also be invited to attend the presentation ceremony, but their expenses will not be covered.

Questions may be directed to Dr. Collins by email at thesis@mags-net.org or by telephone at 812-237-3057.