Tennessee Conference of Graduate Schools
TCGS
Graduate Student Master's Thesis and Final Project Award
Call for Nominations 2027

The Tennessee Conference of Graduate Schools (TCGS) is committed to excellence in all matters of interest to its membership, including recognition of exceptional work by Tennessee graduate students. The TCGS Graduate Student Master's Thesis and Final Project Award formally recognizes these outstanding individuals. The award is modeled after those presented by the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools (CSGS).

The award is given in four rotating categories: (a) Math, Physical Sciences and Engineering; (b) Humanities and Fine Arts; (c) Social Sciences, Business and Education; and (d) Life Sciences.

In 2027, awards will be given in the following categories:

- **Math, Physical Sciences and Engineering (1 award)** - includes, for example, mathematics, statistics, computer and information sciences, data science, chemistry, physics, astronomy, earth and atmospheric sciences, engineering disciplines, and research in closely related fields.
- **Humanities and Fine Arts (1 award)** - includes, for example, art and art history, classics, communication and media studies, creative writing, design, English and world literatures, history, languages, music, philosophy, religious studies, theatre and dance, and research or creative scholarship in closely related fields.

Eligibility

Graduate Deans or their designees at TCGS member institutions may nominate one person per category (a total of two nominees per institution) whose thesis or final project was accepted in partial fulfillment of degree requirements during the past two academic years and/or summer sessions (Fall 2024 through Summer 2026).

Award

Each award carries a $500 prize. Awardees are expected to present their research at the Spring TCGS meeting; presentations may occur via Zoom.

Criteria and Judging

A panel of three to five judges will review the nominations based on clarity of style and presentation, scholarship, research methodology, and contributions to the field or discipline.

Deadline and Nomination Materials

The Graduate Dean or designee must submit the nomination dossier no later than **December 1, 2026**. Materials must be compiled as a single PDF and named as follows:

ThesisAward-Category-LastName-FirstName-Institution.pdf

The dossier must include:

- A synopsis of the thesis or final project outlining its context within the broader field and explaining how the completed work contributes to the discipline (500-word maximum, prepared by the nominee);
- An abbreviated resume or CV for the nominee (two-page maximum, prepared by the nominee);
- A web link to the thesis or final project, or an electronic copy submitted by email;
- A letter of support or endorsement from the major professor addressing the evaluation criteria: clarity of style and presentation, scholarship, research methodology, and contributions to the field or discipline; and
- Certification by the Graduate Dean or designee that the thesis or final project was approved in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the master's degree and that the student completed the degree during the past two academic years and/or summer sessions (Fall 2024 through Summer 2026).

Email dossiers to TCGS Secretary Melodia Wilson at melodiawilson@leeuniversity.edu. Use the subject line "TCGS Thesis Nomination Dossier."

CSGS note: The 2027 CSGS Master's Thesis Award categories are Math, Physical Sciences and Engineering and Humanities and Fine Arts. The CSGS nomination deadline is November 2, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Instructions are available at https://www.csgs.org/thesis-awards