

The Graduate School is pleased to announce a new series of **Graduate Program Awards**. Three awards will be granted annually. Each award includes a \$5,000 honorarium for the program and a citation presented during Graduate Student Appreciation Week. Descriptions of the awards and the nomination process are below.

The Graduate School encourages the use of holistic admissions processes to address inequities in access to graduate education noted by Canales (2020; see attached) and Posselt (2018; copies sent to all graduate departments). The **Innovation in Master's Admissions Award** and **Innovation in Doctoral Admissions Award** recognize the use of innovative and evidence-based criteria in making admissions decisions. One winner in each category will be selected from each of UTSA's seven academic colleges for these \$5,000 awards. GARs or program committee chairs should submit nominations for their programs to their college and include the following:

- Program and degree
- Department
- College
- Copy of rubric used in admissions decisions
- Description of new approach (5 page limit, double spaced, Times New Roman font 11, 1 inch margins) including
  - New processes and/or criteria used in admissions decisions,
  - Rationale for changes with background on research supporting new approach
  - Impact of new processes on applications and admissions
  - Summary with total number of applications, admissions, and new students enrolled for 2 years prior to implementation of the new admissions process and all years after new process

Nominations must be approved by the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies for the college and forwarded to the Graduate School by **March 8, 2021** for review. A review panel of individuals from units across UTSA will be convened by the Graduate School to review nominations.

Canales, J. (2020). *Hispanic Serving Institutions: A critical pipeline to graduate school for Latinx Students*. Retrieved from Council of Graduate Schools website:  
[https://cgsnet.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/CGS\\_ResearchBrief\\_HSI%20Brief\\_Final2.pdf](https://cgsnet.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/CGS_ResearchBrief_HSI%20Brief_Final2.pdf).

Posselt, J. R. (2018). *Inside Graduate Admissions: Merit, Diversity, and Faculty Gatekeeping*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

The Graduate School Award for **Outstanding Enrollment Growth in a Master's Program** will recognize the Master's program with the highest increase in year over year enrollment. This \$5,000 award will be made annually to the program showing the greatest percentage increase in student enrollment over the previous year. To determine the winner for the 2021 award, The Graduate School will evaluate enrollment data from Spring 2020 and Fall 2020 to determine percent increase compared to Spring 2019 and Fall 2019, respectively. The Master's program with the greatest percent increase will receive the award. Nominations for this award are not necessary.