The Graduate School is pleased to announce the call for nominees for the annual **Graduate Student Awards**. Winners in each of three categories in each academic college will be made annually. Each award includes a $2,000 honorarium and a citation presented during Graduate Student Appreciation Week. Please share the information below with your graduate students. Descriptions of the awards and the nomination process are below.

The **Outstanding PhD Dissertation Award** recognizes outstanding and innovative work by doctoral students. One winner will be selected from each of UTSA's academic colleges for $2,000 awards. Dissertations filed in the 2023 calendar year (i.e., January – December) are eligible for consideration. Program GARs should submit nominations to their college. Nominations must include:

- Name and email address of nominee
- Department
- College
- Semester dissertation was filed
- Nominee's major professor/dissertation chair and email address
- Nominee's current employer and position
- A nomination letter from the GAR briefly describing why the dissertation was chosen for nomination by the doctoral program committee
- Letters of support from at least two of the following: dissertation supervisor, graduate advisor, department chair, or committee member with email addresses
- A pdf copy of the dissertation, including the abstract

A panel of faculty from each college will evaluate submissions within their college, considering the methodological and substantive aspects of the nominated dissertations, including:

- clarity of style and presentation
- scholarship
- research methodology
- contributions to the field or discipline

Individuals writing letters of support should be encouraged to keep these criteria in mind as they comment on the significance/major contribution of the dissertation and the particular aspects of the dissertation that distinguish it. Colleges will set deadlines for internal submission. Each college will forward the nomination packet for the selected nominee to the Graduate School by **March 28, 2025.**

The **Outstanding Thesis Award** and **Outstanding Non-Thesis/Capstone/Project Award for Master's students** recognize outstanding and innovative work by Master's students. One winner in each category will be selected from each of UTSA's academic colleges for $2,000 awards. Theses, capstone projects, and other final research-oriented projects completed in non-thesis degree programs completed by students who graduated in the 2023 calendar year (i.e., January – December) are eligible for consideration. Program GARs should submit nominations to their college. Nominations must include:

- Name and email address of nominee
- Department
- College
- Semester thesis was filed or project was completed
- Semester nominee graduated (if different from above)
- Nominee's major professor/thesis or project chair and email address
- Nominee's current employer and position
- A nomination letter from the GAR briefly describing why the thesis or project was chosen for nomination by the graduate program committee
- At least one additional letter of support from the following: thesis or project supervisor, graduate advisor, department chair, a committee member with email address
- A pdf copy of the thesis, including the abstract, or copy of the final project, or recording of the final project, or other format approved by the GAR.

A panel of faculty from each college will evaluate each submission within the college, considering the methodological and substantive aspects of the nominated theses and projects, including:
- clarity of style and presentation
- scholarship
- research methodology
- contributions to the field or discipline
- other appropriate factors that denote excellence

Individuals writing letters of support should be encouraged to keep these criteria in mind as they comment on the significance/major contribution of the projects and the particular aspects of the project that distinguish it from others. Colleges will set deadlines for internal submission. Each college will forward the nomination packet for the selected nominee to the Graduate School by ***March 28, 2025.***

The **Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award** was established by the Graduate School to recognize exemplary teaching at the undergraduate level by graduate students. One winner will be selected from each of UTSA's academic colleges for $2,000 awards. Nominees must be in good standing in their program at the time of the nomination and have been instructor of record for an undergraduate course in the 2023 calendar year (i.e., January – December). After nominees consent to be considered for the award, nominations should be submitted to their college and must include:

- Name and email address of nominee
- Department
- College
- Course(s) where exemplary teaching was demonstrated, and number of students enrolled
- Semester the course(s) was taught (most recent if multiple)
- Teaching evaluation summary for the course taught
- Nominator and role (e.g., student in the course, group of students, nominee, faculty member) with email address
- Letter of support (up to 500 words) from nominator(s) explaining why the nominee should receive the award
- One additional letter of support from a faculty member (with email address) who can speak to the nominee's teaching ability
- Nominee's statement describing their teaching philosophy and how they apply these ideas in teaching their undergraduate students

A panel from each college, composed of faculty who have been recognized for their own outstanding teaching, will evaluate each submission within the college. Nominees will be evaluated on the following evidence and examples of outstanding teaching:
- Quality of instructional materials developed for the course(s)
- Application of teaching philosophy to course design
- Innovative course development
- Classroom management expertise
- Student learning outcomes

Individuals writing letters of support should be encouraged to keep these criteria in mind as they comment on the significance/major contribution of the projects and the particular aspects of the project that distinguish it from others. Colleges will set deadlines for internal submission. Each college will forward the nomination packet for the selected nominee to the Graduate School by ***March 28, 2025.***