

2017 Guidelines for Graduate Student Association (GSA) Superior Graduate Student Awards

Instructions:

- 1.) Each department may nominate one graduate student for the GSA Superior Graduate Student Awards.
- 2.) The following **MUST** be included in the form:
 - a.) 1-2 page letter of recommendation written by the nominating department's Director of Graduate Studies/Department Director. This letter is meant to formally recommend the graduate student for the award and explain how the nominee goes above and beyond what is expected of graduate students. A good letter will expand upon the nominee's CV/resume/bio-sketch in a way that fills in necessary knowledge gap to the readers. It should explain how the nominee exhibits leadership and service to the department, field and university and the initiatives the nominee has taken to advance the program or chosen discipline. A good letter of recommendation also explains how the graduate student exemplifies Mizzou's core values (respect, responsibility, discovery & excellence).
 - b.) One letter of support. This must be written by the nominating department's faculty members. This letter should speak to how the nominee has made an impact on the department/university/field. It should explain, more personally, how the nominee is a superior graduate student, and thus goes above and beyond what is expected of graduate students. This letter expands upon what the CV says, and will be used to gather multiple perspectives on the candidates.
 - c.) A CV, resume, or bio sketch of no more than two pages. Any document longer than this will not be read beyond the two page limit. The information in this document should be relevant to the nominee's time as a graduate student, unless there is information which is especially related to their field. The document should be equally focused on the nominee's involvement in their department, university, and community, both academic and social.
- 3.) Please email applications to GSA Vice President Angela Uriyo at gsa@missouri.edu. Attachments should be in .doc, .docx, or .pdf format.

Please Note:

*No current GSA executive board member can be considered for the GSA Superior Graduate Student Awards, to avoid conflict of interest.

*No current GSA executive board member can write letters of recommendation or support for graduate students nominated for the GSA Superior Graduate Student Awards, to avoid conflict of interest.

*Award applications for GSA Superior Graduate Student Awards must have one letter of recommendation and one letter of support (to avoid penalizing candidates for poor letters of recommendation, to gather multiple perspectives on candidates and to make the decision-making process easier.