

2026 Graduate Education Week Student Awards

Outstanding Dissertation Nomination Form

Award Category: ☐ Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics ☐ Social Science, Business, Education, Humanities

Note: The Graduate School may nominate the winning dissertations for the ProQuest/Council of Graduate Schools Distinguished Dissertation Award in years that the subject area matches the rotating fields of competition.

Student's name _____

Semester & year of degree conferral _____

Department head _____

(Please print name)

Signature of department head or designee _____

(Signature is required to confirm student as department's nominee)

AWARD CRITERIA

- Originality of idea
- Clarity and effectiveness of presentation
- Quality of writing
- Significance of the contribution to the field
- Dissertation must have been submitted and successfully defended during calendar year 2025
- Only one nomination per department or interdisciplinary degree program
- Secured dissertations are not eligible

NOMINATION REQUIREMENTS/CHECKLIST

- ☐ Completed nomination form
- ☐ Double-spaced summary (maximum 2 pages) written by nominee so that reviewers outside the field can gain insight into contribution
- ☐ One-page nomination letter from major professor addressing all selection criteria and including nominee's current position, if applicable
- ☐ One-page support letter from another member of dissertation committee
- ☐ Curriculum vitae from nominee (maximum 2 pages)

To nominate a student, compile signed nomination form and all supporting documents on the checklist (in the above order) in a single PDF file. Upload this package through the following form:

<https://virginiatech.questionpro.com/student26>

Deadline: January 23, 2026

For more information or assistance, contact the Graduate School at 540-231-9561 or email grads@vt.edu
(type GEW Awards in the subject line.)

A Graduate School committee will select the winner in each category. An honorarium of \$1000 will be disbursed to the student, and the Graduate School will recognize all winners during

Graduate Education Week, March 23-27, 2026

The Graduate School will send an announcement about the winners to VT News and various VT social media.