

Guidelines

RICHARD AND DONNA FALVO OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION AWARD

1. Purpose. The Richard and Donna Falvo Outstanding Dissertation Award is granted to recognize and promote outstanding research by doctoral students. It is a testament to the vital contribution of doctoral student research to the life of the University, the various disciplines, and society at large. The award is given annually to that dissertation deemed to be the most outstanding from those submitted to the Graduate School by students who graduated in the immediately preceding academic year.
2. Criteria for Selection. Criteria include quality of research methods, significance of the topic and of the findings, and validity of the conclusions.
3. Nomination Process. Each doctoral program may nominate one dissertation annually. Nominations, prepared by the Committee Chair with the student's approval, are to be submitted electronically to the Graduate School by a preannounced deadline. Only dissertations already completed and accepted by the Graduate School, with their author graduated with PhD, are eligible.

A nomination shall consist of the following:

1. Nomination Form
 2. Completed Dissertation
 3. Abstract
 4. Vita
 5. A detailed statement, written by the Committee Chair, that describes the nature and importance of the dissertation research according to selection criteria above, in a disciplinary and societal context. (300 words maximum)
 6. Supporting Documents (optional, as available and appropriate)
Independent, outside evidence of the significance of the dissertation research:
 - Outside evaluations from faculty not on dissertation committee or at SIUC
 - Report from editors or referees of journals to which the dissertation research has been submitted for publication
 - Supporting statements from other members of the dissertation committee or other faculty at SIUC familiar with the dissertation research.
4. Selection Process. A faculty committee appointed by and convened by the Graduate Dean shall evaluate all nominations and select the winner. The committee shall be broadly representative of the types of doctoral programs at SIUC. The committee may draw up additional procedures and standards governing the nomination and selection process and criteria. If in any one year the committee feels that there is no dissertation worthy of this award, no award need be given.

5. The Award. An award of \$1,000 will be granted to the winner of the Richard and Donna Falvo Outstanding Dissertation Award. In addition to the award, an appropriate certificate will also be provided to the recipient. The award will be announced at the Student Creative Activities and Research Forum in spring.

March 31, 2025