



Gordon A. Melson Outstanding Student Awards

The Gordon A. Melson Outstanding MS and PhD Student Awards are presented each year during the May Hooding & Awards Ceremony. Please consider nominating your graduating student for either the Gordon A. Melson Outstanding Master's Student Award or the Gordon A. Melson Outstanding Doctoral Student Award. At the beginning of the nomination process, graduate faculty will be sent a notice from the Graduate School asking for nominations.

2021 SUBMISSION DEADLINE: March 15, 2021.

Student eligibility:

All doctoral or master's students who have graduated in August 2020, December 2020, or will graduate in May 2021 may be nominated. The master's and doctoral student selected will be given a plaque, and a cash award.

Basis for award:

For the master's award, the primary qualifications are his/her academic record, activity in the discipline and/or university, and departmental citizenship. If the student's master's program has a research component, his/her research productivity and quality will also be taken into consideration.

For the doctoral award, the student should be outstanding in research productivity and quality. Although the award is for the student's research program in general, special attention will be paid to the dissertation in terms of originality, importance, and impact in their field. The doctoral student's academic record, activity in the discipline and/or university, and departmental citizenship will also be taken into account.

Nominating the student:

Students are nominated by their advisors. The nomination is to consist of:

Advisor's letter of support. The nomination should come in the form of a letter bearing the signature of the advisor, which should indicate the award for which the student is being nominated and the student's qualifications. A PDF copy of the letter should be included with the PDF nomination packet.

Faculty letters of support. Two additional faculty members should be asked by the student's advisor to submit letters of support. These letters should be included in the electronic packet of materials.

Candidate's material. The student (having been told by his/her advisor that s/he is being nominated) should prepare the following materials to include in the packet:

- A curriculum vita that includes all awards, presentations, or publications for items which will have been received or appeared by the date of graduation.
- A transcript of courses taken at the graduate level. Please include a signed and dated letter stating that you give permission for the Graduate Council to review your transcript.
- Please provide an at-most two-page description of the master's thesis (for programs with such requirements) or doctoral dissertation that is written for a general audience.

Packet. All submitted materials should be assembled as a single PDF file and emailed to Sarah Simpson (slaffert@wfu.edu) with the subject line "Melson Award Nomination".

Questions? Please contact Sarah Simpson at 336-758-5385 or slaffert@wfu.edu if you have any questions.

Evaluating the nominees:

The Graduate Council as a whole (minus the Graduate Student Association representatives) will meet to select the recipient of this award and a decision made by mid-April. A student will be removed from eligibility for the 2020-2021 award if he/she does not graduate in May.