The Graduate College seeks to honor outstanding research at the master’s level at Bowling Green State University. The Distinguished Thesis Award is granted annually as a way to recognize and promote excellence in research and thesis advising. BGSU follows the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) guidelines for annual thesis awards. This year’s MAGS/ProQuest Distinguished Master’s Thesis Award has limited the acceptance of nominations to the disciplines of Social Sciences and Physical Sciences (including Mathematics)/Engineering. The intent of the competition is to recognize distinguished scholarship by students who are pursuing their first graduate research degree.

Description of the Award: The Graduate College Distinguished Thesis Award consists of a student honorarium of $500, a certificate of citation, and a $100 award of recognition for the thesis advisor. In addition, the annual recipient of the Graduate College Distinguished Thesis Award automatically becomes the subsequent Graduate College nominee for the Distinguished Master’s Thesis Award (in their category) sponsored annually by MAGS. As a result, this is the reason for limiting categories.

The Nominating Process: Graduate Coordinators are invited to solicit nominations from their graduate faculty for the Graduate College Distinguished Thesis Award. A program is limited to submitting one nomination to the Graduate College. In the event that more than one nomination is forwarded to the Graduate Coordinator, it is the responsibility of the graduate faculty to meet to determine which nomination will be forwarded to the Graduate College. All nominees must have received their master’s degree within the period of July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2018 (MAGS timeframe). Because of this two year time frame, students in the Biological/Life Sciences or the Humanities will be able to submit on the alternate years.

Each nomination must include the following electronic submission from the Graduate Coordinator:

a) One (1) copy of the thesis;

b) Thesis abstract, not to exceed 300 words. (Abstract must contain the title of the thesis and the name of the author);

c) Letter of nomination from the Graduate Coordinator on behalf of the graduate faculty;

d) One letter of support from either the thesis advisor or another referee in the student’s graduate program; and

e) A one-page resume of the nominee.

Selection Criteria: The successful nominee’s thesis should represent superior work in the nominee’s discipline or interdisciplinary area of concentration. The thesis will be judged on substantive and methodological quality, originality of thought, and clarity.

Deadline for Nominations: Please email all nomination materials to the Graduate College (gradcol@bgsu.edu), with the subject heading “Distinguished Thesis Award” by 5 p.m., Friday, October 12, 2018.

If you have questions, or require additional information, please call the Graduate College at 419-372-2824. This information is also on the Graduate College website.

Individuals who have received a Ph.D. (or comparable research degree) in any discipline prior to the writing of the master's thesis are not eligible. Recipients of a first professional degree awarded prior to the writing of the thesis may be nominated. Note that original works accepted "in lieu of thesis" (such as musical compositions, published books, works of art, computer software, etc.) may not be nominated for this particular award.