

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATE SCHOOLS

2025-2026 WAGS/PROQUEST DISTINGUISHED MASTER'S THESIS/PROJECT AWARD Creative, Visual, and Performing Arts

The Western Association of Graduate Schools (WAGS) has announced the 2025-2026 WAGS/ProQuest Distinguished Master's Thesis/Project Award competition.

Each member institution may submit only one nomination for this award.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

This award recognizes distinguished scholarly and creative arts' achievement at the master's level. Nominations will be accepted in any of the following disciplines in which PSU offers a master's degree: Creative Writing, Music, and Visual Arts.

The scholarly product eligible for this competition is a formal written thesis, major capstone paper or creative product, and/or audio, video, or digital file of a performance, portfolio, or exhibition. Since many fine and performing arts master's projects involve a combination of written and artistic products, both may be submitted for review (if applicable) and considered in the decision for the award. The university nomination requires a written endorsement from the Dean of the Graduate School.

GUIDELINES FOR PSU PARTICIPATION IN THE 2025-2026 WAGS DISTINGUISHED MASTER'S THESIS/PROJECT AWARD

- i. To be nominated, the student must have been graduated with a master's degree in Summer or Fall 2024 or Winter or Spring 2025. Nomination materials must be submitted to the PSU Graduate School and must include the following:
 - a. A non-technical summary prepared by the student (1000-1500 words) describing the research, artistic approach, inspiration and/or major influences, and its significance for a general academic audience of non-specialists. For those submitting projects that involve a public performance or exhibition, we encourage a video recording of the event as well, so that the scope and impact of the event can be considered.
 - b. An abstract of the research or project (not to exceed ten double-spaced pages). Appendices containing nontextual material, such as charts or tables, may be included as additional pages. All pages should be numbered, and each should bear the name of the student.
 - c. A letter from the major adviser *or* the department chair *plus* a letter from one additional faculty member, each on department letterhead. Each letter should not exceed one page and must include information regarding the significance of the thesis and/or project, the contribution of the thesis and/or project to the program or the degree granting unit, and the impact of the thesis on the knowledge base of the discipline.
 - d. A CV or résumé from the student nominee (not to exceed five pages).

Submit all application materials in electronic format (MS Word only, plus audio/video file if appropriate) to hanson@pdx.edu. Please include "WAGS nomination" and the nominee's name in the subject line of the email.

2. **All nomination materials must be received by the Graduate School no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 19, 2025.** One nominated thesis, project, or performance will be selected by the Dean of the Graduate School for forwarding to the WAGS competition.
3. Evaluation will be based on the following criteria: originality, artistic merit, technical execution, and potential to reach beyond the original academic audience through future performance, exhibition, or publication.
4. The 2025-26 recipient will receive a certificate of award, \$1,000, and travel expenses for the recipient to attend the WAGS Annual Conference and Awards luncheon to be held in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho March 29th-April 1, 2026.