

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATE SCHOOLS

2025-2026 WAGS/PROQUEST DISTINGUISHED MASTER'S THESIS AWARD IN STEM Biological Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, and Engineering
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The Western Association of Graduate Schools (WAGS) and ProQuest have announced the 2025-2026 WAGS/ProQuest Distinguished Master's Thesis Award competition.

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

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

This award recognizes distinguished scholarly achievement at the master's level. Nominations will be accepted in any of the following disciplines in which PSU offers a master's degree with an option or requirement for a thesis as the culminating requirement: Biological Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, and Engineering.

The scholarly product eligible for this competition is a formal written thesis. If a nominating department offers both a thesis option and a project option, only the thesis is acceptable for consideration for this award. The university nomination requires a written endorsement from the Dean of the Graduate School.

GUIDELINES FOR PSU PARTICIPATION IN THE 2025-2026 WAGS/PROQUEST DISTINGUISHED MASTER'S THESIS 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 with the thesis as the culminating activity for the degree. 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 and its significance for a general academic audience of non-specialists.
 - b. An abstract of the thesis (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 thesis 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, the contribution of the thesis 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) 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 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 of the study, scope and significance of the study, contributions to the discipline and/or profession, and overall quality of the summary and abstract of the thesis.
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.