

**Council of Graduate School Programs  
Loyola University Chicago**

**ANNUAL THESIS/DISSERTATION AWARD  
2026**

**The Council of Graduate School Programs gives an annual award for the best dissertation (Ph.D.) and thesis (M.A./M.S.) in each of the following areas:**

**Bio-medical and sciences  
Social Sciences  
Humanities  
Professional Schools**

**The honorariums are \$200 for the thesis awards and \$300 for the dissertation awards.**

**Nominee Information Sheet**

Faculty are encouraged to nominate students who have successfully defended their thesis/dissertation between *March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 and March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026* and had a MA, MS or Ph.D. degree conferred in *May/August/December 2025* or will have a *May/August of 2026* degree conferral. The nominated student should complete the Abstract and Project Description Forms.

Nominated students should submit the material noted below to their **Department Graduate Program Director** so that it is received by **April 8th, 2026**. It is the nominee's responsibility to meet this deadline so that the department/school has sufficient time to complete the Department Evaluation Form and electronically submit **all** materials to the Awards Committee Chair of the Council of Graduate School Programs, **Awards Committee Chair at [CGSP-Awards@luc.edu](mailto:CGSP-Awards@luc.edu)** by **April 15th, 2026 at 5 p.m.** Forms received after this date/time will not be considered.

1. Nominee Information Sheet
2. Thesis/Dissertation Abstract
3. Thesis/Dissertation Project Description
4. Graduate Program Director's Evaluation

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**Nominee Information Sheet**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

ID# \_\_\_\_\_

Current Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (Day) \_\_\_\_\_

Department \_\_\_\_\_

Program \_\_\_\_\_

Award Area (Check 1)

\_\_\_\_\_ Bio-medical and sciences

\_\_\_\_\_ Social Sciences

\_\_\_\_\_ Humanities

\_\_\_\_\_ Professional Schools

Thesis \_\_\_\_\_ Dissertation \_\_\_\_\_ (check one)

Thesis/Dissertation Director \_\_\_\_\_

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**Thesis/Dissertation Abstract**

Nominee's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Dept./School \_\_\_\_\_

Program \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Thesis/Dissertation \_\_\_\_\_

Director (PI) \_\_\_\_\_

Attach to this cover sheet an abstract of your thesis/dissertation, not to exceed 300 words, written in clear and concise language appropriate for those outside your discipline.

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**Project Description**

Nominee's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Dept. /School \_\_\_\_\_

Program \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Thesis/Dissertation \_\_\_\_\_

Director (PI) \_\_\_\_\_

Attach to this cover sheet a description of the thesis/dissertation project, not to exceed two double-spaced pages, using 12-point type that covers the following set of questions:

**Subject and Significance.**

What is the basic problem or question on which your thesis/dissertation focuses?

Why is the topic important?

What is its significance beyond the immediate focus of the thesis/dissertation and field of study?

Explain the originality of this project / method and the ways in which it will contribute to knowledge.

**Funding and Publications.**

Please list any grants that you have been awarded to support your thesis/dissertation.

Please list any abstracts or papers that have been submitted or published as a result of your thesis/dissertation work.

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**Department/School Evaluation Form**

**Instructions for the Department**

The graduate program director (or department chair) is to complete this form (parts I - IV). Please type rather than hand-write responses. Because of the importance of the departmental evaluation, please provide complete information.

Part I. Nominee's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Department \_\_\_\_\_ Program \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Thesis/Dissertation \_\_\_\_\_

Director \_\_\_\_\_

Degree Requirements	Date Completed
Thesis/Dissertation Proposal (approved by committee)	_____
Thesis/Dissertation Defense	_____
Distinction?	_____ Yes _____ No
Grade point average (for Loyola courses applicable toward the graduate degree)	_____

**Part II. Assessment of Nominee's thesis/dissertation.**

On a scale of 1 (lowest) to 7 (highest), rate the quality of each nominee's thesis/dissertation compared to other theses/dissertations in your department in the appropriate places on this form. You **may not** use gradations of tenths within the 1 to 7 scale (*e.g.*, 3.7); if decimals are used, they will be rounded down in the tabulation.

**Please do not award each thesis/dissertation a straight 7.** The Graduate Awards Committee seeks helpful advice via this rating system and requests that you reflect differences among the nominees in your department by differences among the numbers of points you award to all the nominees from your department. If you do not provide a rating of this proposal, the Graduate School will assign it a score of 4. **To avoid rating inflation, consider a score of 4 as normative, with scores above that only for the most outstanding theses/dissertations. This normative scoring should be related to the evaluation of the historical cohort of your Ph.D. candidates over the past five years.** If you think that two theses/dissertations are of exact equal quality, you may of course give them both the

same number of points. However, if your ratings do not differentiate among the theses/dissertations from your department, the ratings may be discounted by the Committee.

- A. Please rate the nominee's thesis/dissertation in relation to those nominees from your department for thesis/dissertation awards this year.

Rating: \_\_\_\_\_

- B. Please discuss the strengths or weaknesses of the thesis/dissertation, giving consideration to the following questions: Is it theoretically well-conceived? Is it methodologically well-constructed? Is the thesis/dissertation innovative? Is the thesis/dissertation well-written? Does it have real significance for the discipline? How does it compare with other proposals from your department? Would you recommend it for publication upon graduation?

### Part III. Overall Evaluation.

- A. You have **rated** each nominee's thesis/dissertation. Now you are asked to **rank** each nominee. **Ranking** should be done in context of all nominees from your department (*i.e.*, first of four nominees, third of six, *etc.*). No decimal points should be used in the ranking space. The rankings must differentiate among the candidates from your department (*i.e.*, do not assign the same rank to two or more candidates).

This nominee **ranks** \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ applicants from our department/school this year.

- B. You have **ranked** each nominee in terms of all nominees from your department/school this year. Now you are asked to **rate** your top candidate in terms of all theses/dissertations in your department in the last 5 years, using a scale 1(lowest) to 7 (highest). You may not use gradations of tenths within the 1 to 7 scale (e.g., 3.7); if decimals are used, they will be rounded down in the tabulation. Again, consider a score of 4 as normative, with scores above that only for the most outstanding theses/dissertations. You may include a brief statement indicating your reasoning.

**Rating:** \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate number of theses/dissertations used as basis of comparison: \_\_\_\_\_

### Part IV. Signatures

Department Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduate Program Director: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Instructions for Submitting the Nomination Application Package:**

The GPD is to submit the application packet electronically as PDF attachments. Please e-mail to: **Awards Committee Chair at [CGSP-Awards@luc.edu](mailto:CGSP-Awards@luc.edu)**. *Paper copies will not be considered.*

Deadline: **5 p.m., April 15, 2026**

The Graduate School and the Graduate Awards Committee appreciates greatly your assistance in the awards process.