FSU
GRADUATE SCHOOL

2026-2027 Graduate Student Research and Creativity Award

Award Description:

Sponsored annually by the Graduate School, this award recognizes the superior scholarship of FSU graduate students.

All required nomination materials must be submitted as one combined PDF packet to James Beck (jpbeck@fsu.edu) via FSU Nifty no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, January 29, 2027**.

FSU graduate students will be recognized for their outstanding contributions to research and creative endeavors at the *Celebration of Graduate Student Excellence* held each spring in April. Awards of $1,000 will be made to two graduate students in each of the three disciplinary categories: Natural and Physical Sciences (including mathematics and engineering), Social and Behavioral Sciences, and the Humanities and Arts.

Criteria:

The following must be met:

1. Must be an active FSU degree-seeking graduate or professional student in good academic standing.
2. Must show evidence of outstanding scholarly/creative productivity as a graduate/professional student at FSU; if the effort is part of a team the nomination materials must clearly delineate the contributions of the applicant.
3. Must show evidence of national visibility in research/creative activity (e.g., publications, presentations, juried exhibits, or performances). This could also include evidence of recognition and honors in endeavors related to the research and/or creative activities.

General Nomination/Application Process:

Students interested in applying for this award should make their interest known to faculty who can write letters of recommendation and support. Additionally, faculty are asked to identify and encourage students to prepare application materials that will be submitted online using the FSU Nifty.

Application materials for the Graduate Student Research and Creativity Award should be combined and submitted as one PDF packet in the following order:

1. A brief cover letter from the nominee that clearly states in which disciplinary category the nominee wishes to be considered (at the discretion of the reviewers, any question regarding the disciplinary category will be discussed and resolved by the reviewers, the Dean of the Graduate School (or designee) and the faculty member who nominated the student).

2. One (1) letter of recommendation/nomination from a Florida State University faculty member (e.g., major advisor or co-major professor) or administrator that addresses the selection criteria above.

    - The letter of recommendation can be co-written. It is strongly encouraged that the faculty or administrator sends the letter of recommendation to the student so that it can be included with the submission packet of materials. However, if the faculty or administrator does not feel comfortable doing this, then the letter of recommendation can be sent via email directly to James Beck (jpbeck@fsu.edu).

    - An additional letter of recommendation can be provided but is optional. No more than one (1) additional letter of recommendation from an FSU faculty member or administrator is permissible in support of the nomination.

3. A clear, complete, and non-technical description (no more than three (3) pages and written by the nominee) of the program of research or creative activities accomplished as a graduate/professional student at Florida State University.

4. The nominee's vitae (CV) showing grants, awards, publications, performances, exhibitions (e.g., dates, locations, page numbers, co-authorship, publication status). Indicate with an asterisk (or by some other means) those publications, exhibitions or presentations that were selected through a formal independent referee or competitive process.

5. One (1) letter of endorsement from the Department Chair, Program Director, or Academic Dean (**please see selection section below**).

    - The letter of endorsement is separate from the letter of recommendation noted above. A Department Chair, Program Director, or Academic Dean can only submit one or the other, not both. If a conflict exists, then another FSU faculty member or administrator should be identified and selected to complete either the letter of recommendation or the letter of endorsement.

6. It is very important that all application materials be saved as **one PDF packet** in the **exact order** listed above. Preparation and submission of the application materials is the responsibility of the nominee, but departments and colleges may (and are

encouraged) to provide assistance. Humanities and Arts graduate students may also provide a portfolio of their work, if applicable.

Selection Process:

The number of nominations each department or college (if no departmental subunits) may submit for the Graduate Student Research and Creativity Awards will be based upon its number of graduate students. Departments or colleges with under 100 graduate students may nominate one candidate; departments or colleges with 100 – 200 graduate students may nominate a maximum of two candidates; and departments or colleges with over 200 graduate students may nominate a maximum of three candidates.

Discipline-specific committees (natural and physical sciences including mathematics and engineering; social and behavioral sciences; and the humanities and arts) of faculty appointed by the Dean of the Graduate School (or designee) will review and score the nominee materials. The Dean of the Graduate School (or designee) will select the Research and Creativity Awards winners based on the final scores submitted by the three award selection committees. Award notifications are sent out to all applicants at the end of March. Winners will be recognized at the spring *Celebration of Graduate Student Excellence* ceremony scheduled in April.

Submission of Materials:

The single PDF packet of required materials (with the letter of recommendation and letter of endorsement) must be sent via FSU Nifty and is due no later than **5:00 P.M., Friday, January 29, 2027.** No time extensions will be awarded for late submission of materials as it is the student's responsibility to be sure all required documents are accepted on time and prior to the deadline.

FSU Nifty Directions:

1. Go to the FSU Nifty here: https://dropbox.fsu.edu/ .
2. Click "Login" and log-in with your FSUID and password.
3. Click "Drop-off."
4. Enter your information and the recipient information: James Beck (jpbeck@fsu.edu)
5. Choose the file you would like to upload (one PDF document of the application materials).
6. Click "Drop-off the File."

For more information, questions, or concerns regarding the Graduate Student Research and Creativity Award, please contact James Beck (jpbeck@fsu.edu) in the Graduate School.