

**EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
OFFICE OF THE DEAN**

CGS Agenda Item: 08-24
Proposal Effective Date: Fall 2008

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TO: Council on Graduate Studies

RE: Modification and Expansion of Graduate School Thesis Awards

DATE: September 2, 2008

Table 1 offers a summary of the current graduate thesis awards.

Table 1 Current Menu of Thesis Awards			
Amt	Thesis Awards	Amt	Non-Thesis Research/Creative Activity Awards
\$500	Distinguished Master's Thesis Award		None
\$250	Thesis Award of Excellence		
\$0.0	Honorable Mention in Arts & Humanities		
\$750	Three Awards	\$0.0	1 Award

Table 2 provides an outline of an expanded menu of graduate thesis awards and the creation of the first graduate non-thesis research/creative activity awards. In this model the non-thesis awards are offered in parallel structure to the thesis awards. This proposal eliminates the unfunded Honorable Mention Thesis Awards, expands the Thesis Award of Excellence to recognize the best thesis projects within each of the four colleges and creates the same parallel structure for both award programs.

Table 2 Proposed Menu of Thesis and Non-thesis Awards			
Amt	Thesis	Amt	Non-Thesis
\$500	Distinguished Master's Thesis Award	\$500	Distinguished Graduate Research/Creative Activity Award (Non-Thesis)
\$200	Thesis Award of Excellence in Arts & Humanities	\$200	Graduate Research/Creative Activity Award of Excellence in Arts & Humanities
\$200	Thesis Award of Excellence in Education & Professional Studies	\$200	Graduate Research/Creative Activity Award of Excellence in Education & Professional Studies
\$200	Thesis Award of Excellence in Lumpkin Business & Applied Sciences	\$200	Graduate Research/Creative Activity Award of Excellence in Lumpkin Business & Applied Sciences
\$200	Thesis Award of Excellence in Sciences	\$200	Graduate Research/Creative Activity Award of Excellence in Sciences
\$1300	Five Awards	\$1300	Five Awards

Timing of for the Research/Creative Activity Awards

The current thesis awards are given for thesis research conducted and completed in the past year. In the coming year recognition will be given for a thesis completed between October 1, 2007 and September 30, 2008. The timing of the award selection is configured to accommodate the timeline for a Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) Thesis Nomination.

Because the non-thesis awards have no MAGS affiliation, the timing of when the work was completed and the timetable for the review can be separate or different from the thesis awards. The recognition could be for work completed more recently such as April 1, 2008 through March 30, 2009 and the review could be held in April immediately prior to the Distinguished Graduate Student Awards Program.

Description of the Awards & Procedures

The EIU Distinguished Master's Thesis Award and Midwest Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) Thesis Nomination

- **Purpose:** Recognition of the highest achievement in graduate research based on master's thesis projects completed between October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008
- **Award:** \$500 Honorarium from the Graduate School, nomination for the MAGS Distinguished Thesis Award, and recognition during the Distinguished Graduate Student Awards Ceremony. *If selected by MAGS, the award winner receives a \$500 honorarium from MAGS and travel expenses to attend the annual MAGS conference.*
- **Eligibility:** Graduate degree-seeking candidates who completed a thesis as part of the requirements for the master's degree during the dates specified.
- **Application:** Application guidelines are available from Graduate Coordinators in academic departments. Each department or program will select one thesis from among those submitted to forward to the Council on Graduate Studies for consideration. The department or program will submit to the graduate school two copies of the thesis being nominated, two copies of an abstract of the thesis not to exceed 300 words which describes the research and its significance, a one-page resume of the nominee, and a letter from the graduate faculty mentor noting the significance and quality of the work. The 300 word abstract must contain the title of the thesis and the name of the author, but not the name of the nominating institution.
- **Deadline:** 4:30 p.m. on the second Friday of October each year. **(The 2007 deadline is 4:30 p.m. Friday, October 12, 2007)**
- **Number:** One award per year
- **Selection:** Award winners are selected by an Awards Subcommittee of the Council on Graduate Studies.
- **Obligation:** The candidate selected for the EIU Distinguished Thesis Award is required to present the thesis during the Annual Graduate Student Exposition in April each Spring Semester. Students no longer on campus at the time of the Exposition may have their work presented by a faculty mentor or colleague.

The College Thesis Award of Excellence

- **Purpose:** Recognition of the highest achievement in graduate research in each of the four academic colleges based on master's thesis projects completed between October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008. Recipients will be selected from among those who are nominated for but do not receive the EIU Distinguished Master's Thesis Award.
- **Award:** \$125 Honorarium from the Graduate School and recognition during the Distinguished Graduate Student Awards Ceremony
- **Eligibility:** The same eligibility requirements as the EIU Distinguished Thesis Award
- **Application:** Application guidelines are those outlined for the EIU Distinguished Master's Thesis Award Competition and Midwest Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) Thesis Nomination
- **Deadline:** 4:30 p.m. on the second Friday of October each year. **(The 2007 deadline is 4:30 p.m. Friday, October 12, 2007)**
- **Number:** Four awards per year; one each in the College of Arts & Humanities, the College of Education & Professional Studies, the Lumpkin College of Business & Applied Sciences, and the College of Sciences.

- **Selection:** Award winners are selected by an Awards Subcommittee of the Council on Graduate Studies
- **Obligation:** The candidate selected in each College is required to present the thesis during the Annual Graduate Student Exposition in April each Spring Semester. Students no longer on campus at the time of the Exposition may have their work presented by a faculty mentor or colleague.

The EIU Distinguished Research/Creative Activity Award

- **Purpose:** Recognition of the highest achievement in graduate research based on non-thesis graduate research/creative activity projects required for a degree program completed between October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008.
- **Award:** \$500 Honorarium from the Graduate School and recognition during the Distinguished Graduate Student Awards Ceremony.
- **Eligibility:** Graduate degree-seeking candidates who completed the research/creative activity as part of the requirements for the graduate degree during the dates specified.
- **Application:** Application guidelines are available from Graduate Coordinators in academic departments. Each department or program will select one project from among those submitted to forward to the Council on Graduate Studies for consideration. The department or program will submit to the graduate school two copies of the project being nominated, two copies of an abstract of the project not to exceed 300 words which describes the project and its significance, a one-page resume of the nominee, and a letter from the graduate faculty mentor noting the significance and quality of the work. The 300 word abstract must contain the title of the project, the name of the degree program, and the name of the author.
- **Deadline:** 4:30 p.m. DATE each year. **(The 2008 deadline is 4:30 p.m. Friday, October 10, 2008)**
- **Number:** One award per year
- **Selection:** Award winners are selected by an Awards Subcommittee of the Council on Graduate Studies.
- **Obligation:** The candidate selected for the EIU Distinguished Research/Creative Activity Award is required to present the project during the Annual Graduate Student Exposition in April each Spring Semester. Students no longer on campus at the time of the Exposition may have their work presented by a faculty mentor or colleague.

The College Research/Creative Activity Award of Excellence

- **Purpose:** Recognition of the highest achievement in non-thesis graduate research/creative activity in each of the four academic colleges based on non-thesis research/creative activity projects completed between October 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008. Recipients will be selected from among those who are nominated for but do not receive the EIU Distinguished Research/Creative Activity Award.
- **Award:** \$125 Honorarium from the Graduate School and recognition during the Distinguished Graduate Student Awards Ceremony
- **Eligibility:** The same eligibility requirements as the EIU Distinguished Research/Creative Activity Award
- **Application:** Application guidelines are those outlined for the EIU Distinguished Research/Creative Activity Award Nomination.
- **Deadline:** 4:30 p.m. on DATE each year. **(The 2008 deadline is 4:30 p.m. Friday, October 10, 2008)**
- **Number:** Four awards per year; one each in the College of Arts & Humanities, the College of Education & Professional Studies, the Lumpkin College of Business & Applied Sciences, and the College of Sciences.
- **Selection:** Award winners are selected by an Awards Subcommittee of the Council on Graduate Studies
- **Obligation:** The candidate selected in each College is required to present the project during the Annual Graduate Student Exposition in April each Spring Semester. Students no longer on campus at the time of the Exposition may have their work presented by a faculty mentor or colleague.

Awards Committee Structure

Thesis Awards Committee 4 members representing each of the 4 colleges in the following arrangement (Unchanged)

- Dr. Peter Ping Liu, (Technology) CGS, Lumpkin College of Business & Applied Sciences & Committee Chair
- Dr. David Raybin, (English) CGS, College of Arts & Humanities
- Mr. Tyson Holder, (School Psychology) Graduate Candidate, College of Sciences
- Dr. Richard Roberts, (Counseling & Student Development) Coordinator and Chair, College of Education & Professional Studies
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Non-thesis Research/Creative Activity Awards Committee representing each of the 4 colleges in the following arrangement

- Mr. Paul Johnston, (Music) Coordinator, College of Arts & Humanities, Chair
- Cheryl Noll, (Business) Chair, Lumpkin College of Business & Applied Sciences,
- Dr. Mukti Upadhyay, (Economics) Coordinator, College of Sciences
- Ms. Kelly Shore, (Elementary Education) Graduate Candidate, College of Education & Professional Studies