

**Eastern Illinois University and Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools
Excellence in Teaching Award for Graduate Assistants**

Title: Eastern Illinois University and Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools
Excellence in Teaching Award

Purpose: The purpose of the Eastern Illinois University and Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) excellence in teaching award for graduate assistants is to recognize the importance of excellence in teaching and mentoring as a component of graduate education and as part of the preparation of graduate students for future service as college and university faculty.

Award: \$250 honorarium from The Graduate School, nomination for the MAGS Excellence in Teaching Award, and recognition during the Distinguished Graduate Student Awards Ceremony. If selected by MAGS, the award winner receives a \$750 honorarium from MAGS and travel expenses to attend the annual MAGS conference.

Eligibility:

- Supervised Instructional Assistants: Graduate candidates who hold appointments as supervised instructional assistants in approved degree programs and who perform teaching and mentoring as a component of graduate education and as part of their preparation for careers as college faculty are eligible for nomination. The eight degree programs at Eastern that are approved to use supervised instructional assistants as part of their educational mission are listed below.
 - Master of Arts in Art,
 - Master of Arts in Communication Studies,
 - Master of Arts in English,
 - Master of Science in College Student Affairs,
 - Master of Science in Counseling,
 - Master of Science in Kinesiology & Sports Studies,
 - Master of Science in Biological Sciences,
 - Master of Arts in Mathematics, and
- Teaching Assistants: Graduate candidates who perform teaching duties as part of a teaching assistantship in any degree program may be eligible if they perform teaching and mentoring as a component of graduate education and as part of their preparation to consider careers as college faculty.
- Eligibility also requires that the nominees must be enrolled during the prior Fall and current Spring terms. At least one prior term of teaching experience is required for the competition; however, all prior teaching while in pursuit of the degree at Eastern may be included in the review portfolio. The nominee must be enrolled at Eastern during the Spring 2012 term to receive recognition.

Nomination: Graduate Coordinators are responsible for nominating candidates. Each program may select one assistant who meets the eligibility criteria to forward to the Council on Graduate Studies for consideration. The program will submit a digital copy of the materials outlined below to Ben Rienbolt in the Graduate School at bcrienbolt@eiu.edu.

- Letter of support from the Department Chair
- A Teaching Portfolio that is limited to 6 double spaced pages and includes a summary of the following:
 - Statement of teaching philosophy
 - Evidence of instructional design and innovation, instructional delivery, course management, and student learning
 - Evidence of how research informs teaching
 - Courses taught, number of students, instructional responsibility
 - Summary (strengths or compelling statements) of student evaluations of teaching
 - Awards and honors for teaching excellence
 - Evidence of effective student/colleague mentoring
- Curriculum Vitae

Nomination Materials Required of the Selected Recipient

The EIU recipient of this award will be required to include the following materials with their MAGS Nomination by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, February 3.

- 10 minute video clip of “teaching in action.” The video clip should be filmed by the Center for Academic Technology Services (CATS) and the Graduate School will assist in arranging filming.
- The Graduate School will submit a current transcript and a Nomination Form at the time of submission to MAGS.

Deadlines:

- The nomination portfolio is due to the Graduate School by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, January 20.

Selection: Award winners are selected by the Executive Committee (Chair and Vice Chair) of Eastern's Council on Graduate Studies.

Obligation: The candidate selected for the EIU/MAGS Excellence in Teaching Award will be photographed and featured in the *Graduate Journal of Scholarship* and may be required to present the project during the Annual Graduate Student Exposition in April each spring semester.