

University of Central Florida
Department of Writing and Rhetoric Student Awards
2015-16

Applications Due: Monday, March 21 by 11:59 pm

For questions and concerns, please email Matthew Bryan, DWR Student Awards Committee chair, at Matthew.Bryan@ucf.edu.

Awards Overview

The Department of Writing and Rhetoric sponsors three awards to recognize the outstanding work of students enrolled in its programs. The awards are as follows:

- Department of Writing and Rhetoric Award for Undergraduate Student Excellence
- Department of Writing and Rhetoric Award for Graduate Student Excellence
- Department of Writing and Rhetoric Award for GTA Teaching Excellence

Award winners will be selected by a department level Student Awards Committee comprised of two elected faculty members plus the Composition Director or Coordinator or his/her designee and the Undergraduate Director or Advisor or his/her designee. Elected members must teach courses in one of the programs from which students will be selected (minor, certificate, major, or the MA). For 2015-16, each of the award winners will receive a \$250 scholarship. In addition, winners will be recognized at the DWR Awards Ceremony following the College of Arts and Humanities graduation in the Spring.

Descriptions of each award and application procedures are detailed in the following pages.

Department of Writing and Rhetoric Award for Undergraduate Student Excellence

Description

The Award for Undergraduate Student Excellence is presented to students who have distinguished themselves by excelling in upper-division coursework and/or contributing significantly to the promotion of department programs, events, goals, or activities. Nominations are considered by a department committee.

Eligibility

Current undergraduate students who declared one of the Writing and Rhetoric courses of study (B.A., Minor, or Public & Professional Writing Certificate) are eligible for the award. Students must have a 3.5 GPA in all Writing and Rhetoric coursework and must be nominated by a department faculty or staff member.

Students who previously won this award or who are currently enrolled in ENC 1101 or 1102 are not eligible.

Selection Criteria

The awards committee will look for students who demonstrate exceptional work at the undergraduate level. This work may include, but is not limited to, excellence in coursework; contributions to department workshops or events; assistance in department marketing initiatives; exceptional e-portfolio submissions; and/or a publication in a department-level, local, or nationally recognized publication.

Application Materials

Eligible students should submit the following materials electronically to the chair of the Student Awards Committee by emailing them to DWRUndergradAwards@ucf.edu:

1. A nomination letter from a DWR faculty member or staff member.
2. A cover letter that frames why or how their work demonstrates excellence.
3. A link to their electronic portfolio of writing samples and arguments about their work.
4. If the student's contribution includes work that would not be included in an e-portfolio, then the student needs to provide one piece of evidence to demonstrate their contribution.

Department of Writing and Rhetoric Award for Graduate Student Excellence

Description

The Award for Graduate Student Excellence is presented to students who have distinguished themselves as individuals who have excelled in graduate-level coursework and/or have participated in the academic conversation in their respective fields. In addition, students have contributed significantly to the promotion of department programs, events, goals, or activities. Nominations are considered by an elected department committee.

Eligibility

Students must...

- Be currently enrolled in the M.A. Rhetoric and Composition program
- Have a minimum 3.5 GPA in graduate-level courses
- Not have won the award previously; students may only win the award once
- Be nominated by a Department of Writing & Rhetoric faculty or staff member

Selection Criteria

The awards committee will look for students who demonstrate exceptional work at the graduate level. This work may include, but is not limited to, excellence in coursework; contributions to department workshops or events; assistance in department marketing initiatives; participation in relevant conferences; academic publications; etc.

Application Materials

Eligible students should submit the following materials electronically to the chair of the Student Awards Committee by emailing them to DWRGraduateAwards@ucf.edu:

1. A nomination letter from a DWR faculty or staff member.
2. A cover letter that frames how or why their work demonstrates excellence.
3. Resume/CV.
4. One exemplifying work showcasing achievement in one of the following areas:
 - writing assignment from a graduate level course;
 - community outreach project;
 - service-learning project;
 - published article in nationally recognized publication; or
 - documentation of a presentation at a national conference, department workshop, or university event relating to our field.

Department of Writing and Rhetoric Award for GTA Teaching Excellence

Description

The DWR Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching recognizes excellence in teaching by graduate teaching assistants who serve as instructors of record and have independent classroom responsibilities. The focus of this award is on the quality of the GTA's teaching and how those teaching activities contribute to the mission of the department.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the DWR Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching, students must...

- Be currently enrolled in a UCF master's or doctoral program or have graduated from a UCF master's or doctoral program in the immediate past Spring, Summer or Fall term.
- Have served as a GTA instructor of record for at least one DWR course at UCF within the past year.
- Be nominated by a faculty member from the Department of Writing & Rhetoric and/or have a letter of support by a DWR faculty member.

Selection Criteria

The awards committee will look for students who demonstrate exceptional teaching. This may include, but is not limited to, excellence in the classroom; pedagogical innovations; sharing materials with others; etc.

Application Materials

Eligible students should submit the following materials electronically to the chair of the Student Awards Committee by emailing them to DWRGraduateAwards@ucf.edu:

1. A 1-page cover letter
2. A nomination letter (or letter of support) from a DWR faculty member
3. A Teaching Portfolio (electronic or paper) to include the following:
 - Copy of CV
 - One- to two- page typed (double spaced) teaching philosophy
 - At least one course syllabus
 - At least one course assignment
 - Other documentation of teaching excellence at the student's discretion that might include but is not limited to: observation letters; overview of student evaluation comments; noteworthy teaching-related papers authored or co-authored by the student; presentations/workshops given on writing pedagogy; materials submitted to the Best Practices displays during orientation; innovative approaches to DWR curricula; additional letters of support; and/or evidence of effective mentoring; etc.