

Attachment #1

SIU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
OUTSTANDING THESIS AWARD
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY AT CARBONDALE

1. Purpose. The Alumni Association Outstanding Thesis Award is presented by the SIU Alumni Association to recognize and promote outstanding research by master's students. It is a testament to the contribution of master's student research and creative activity to the life of the University, the various disciplines, and society at large. The award is given annually to that thesis deemed to be the most outstanding from those submitted to the Graduate School in the immediately preceding year.
2. Criteria for Selection. Criteria include quality of research methods, significance of the topic and of the findings, and validity of the conclusions, originality of concept, skill in media, and quality of artistic expression.
3. Nominations Process. Each master's program that has a thesis option may nominate one thesis annually. Nominations, prepared by the thesis project director with the student's approval, are to be submitted by a preannounced deadline to the Graduate School. A nomination shall consist of the student's name, ID number, thesis project title, and date submitted to the Graduate School (only theses already complete and accepted by the Graduate are eligible), and a detailed statement of the nature and importance of the thesis project according to the criteria above.
4. Selection Process. A faculty committee appointed by and convened by the Graduate Dean shall evaluate all nominations and select the winner. The committee shall be broadly representative of the types of master's programs at SIUC. The committee may draw up additional procedures and standards governing the nomination and selection process and criteria. If in any one year the committee feels that there is no thesis project worthy of this award, no award need be given.
5. The Award. Five hundred dollars is to be granted to the winner of the Alumni Association Outstanding Thesis Award. In addition to the monetary award, an appropriate certificate will also be provided to the recipient. The award will be announced prior to the Spring Break, and the award will be presented at the Spring Board Meeting of the SIU Alumni Association. Every attempt will be made to have the recipient in attendance at that ceremony.