Department of Psychological Science's Graduate Student Award for Outstanding Achievement Nomination Form

This award recognizes outstanding master's students in the Department of Psychological Science's Clinical Psychology or Psychological Science programs. This award honors students who have consistently exceeded program expectations, contributed meaningfully to the field of psychology, and shown a commitment to professional growth and leadership within the department, university, psychology field, or broader community. Individuals receiving this award will be recognized at the annual Psychological Science Department Awards Ceremony.

Each year, the committee will select one first-year student and one second-year student for the award, based on submitted nominations.

Criteria for the Outstanding Master's Student Award

Below are the four categories of excellence relevant to this award. **First-year** student nominees should demonstrate excellence in at least *two* of these categories. **Second-year** student nominees should demonstrate excellence in at least *three* of these categories.

1. **Academic Excellence:** The nominee demonstrates a strong record of academic achievement through coursework, independent study, and engagement with advanced psychological concepts. Excellence in this category extends beyond maintaining a high GPA and includes the ability to critically analyze theories, apply psychological principles to complex problems, and integrate knowledge across different subfields of psychology. Indicators of excellence may include pursuing rigorous coursework, producing high-quality written work, engaging in meaningful discussions, demonstrating intellectual curiosity, advancing their studies through internships or work experience, and consistently applying psychological science to professional challenges.
2. **Research Activity:** The nominee shows promise and momentum toward or already conducts research that meaningfully contributes to the body of psychological science knowledge. Research could include empirical studies, theoretical advancements, or applied research. Indicators of achievement could include things like involvement in peer-reviewed publications or scholarly book chapters, presentations at conferences, grant applications and awards, independent research progress, or contributions to faculty-led research teams. The nominee should exhibit strong skills or potential in research methodology, critical thinking, and communication of research findings.
3. **Teaching and Mentoring:** The nominee demonstrates efforts to encourage others to learn psychological science through formal and informal instructional roles. This may include serving as a teaching assistant, mentoring peers or undergraduate students in

research or coursework, leading study groups to support fellow graduate students, or engaging with non-academic audiences about psychological principles. The nominee should exhibit strong potential or abilities in effectively communicating complex psychological concepts, supporting the academic growth of others, and fostering an inclusive and engaging learning environment.

4. **Professional Development, Service, and Leadership:** The nominee engages in activities that demonstrate a commitment to continuous professional growth, service, and leadership within the department, university, or broader community. This may include things like participating in professional organizations, taking on leadership roles in student or professional groups, organizing departmental or university initiatives, or engaging in initiatives that promote outreach, community, and psychological science. The nominee should have taken steps to make meaningful contributions that support both their own development and that of their communities.

Requirements

Nominees must be in their first or second year of the Psychological Science or Clinical Psychology master's program in the Department of Psychological Science and be in good standing with the university. Nominations can be submitted by faculty members, fellow graduate and undergraduate students, or professional staff. Nominations from groups of individuals are welcome. If a nominator has detailed knowledge of only one or two areas of a nominee's excellence, they are encouraged to collaborate with other faculty, students, or staff who can address the nominee's other strengths.

Nomination Process

Submit a letter of nomination and the nominee's curriculum vitae to the Chair of the Graduate Committee, Andy Luttrell, at alluttrell@bsu.edu by March 25th, 2026. The letter of nomination should include contact information for the nominee and nominator(s) and address the nomination questions listed below.

Nominee Information

- Name of Nominee: _____
- Program: ☐ Psychological Science ☐ Clinical Psychology
- Year in Program: ☐ 1st year ☐ 2nd year
- E-Mail Address: _____
- Phone Number: _____

Nominator(s) Information

- Name of Nominator(s): _____
- Title: _____
- Department/Affiliation: _____
- E-Mail Address: _____
- Phone Number: _____

Nomination Questions (Responses should not exceed 2 pages with 12-pt font)

1. In what capacity and for how long have you known the nominee?
2. What is the primary reason you are nominating this student for the award?
3. How has the nominee demonstrated excellence in at least two (first-year student) or three (second-year student) of the award criteria (Academic Excellence, Research Activity, Teaching and Mentoring, Professional Development, Service, and Leadership)?
4. What impact has the nominee had on their peers, department, university, or broader professional community?
5. What additional information should the selection committee consider when evaluating this nominee?

Contact Information

For questions about the award or nomination process, contact Andy Luttrell at alluttrell@bsu.edu