

## **GPSA Merit Award**

The purpose of the GPSA Merit Award is to acknowledge no more than three graduate and professional students each academic year who have supported the mission of the Graduate & Professional Student Association. This award was enacted to honor members of the Council, but also those graduate and professional students who have volunteered their time and effort to the organization without an official position or title.

Graduate and professional students from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas are eligible for consideration, other Nevada System of Higher Education institutions are ineligible. Although this award is intended for individuals, groups who by their collaboration have made major advances may be recognized as well. The intent is to select no more than three individual(s) (or group(s)) for recognition each year.

Application Deadline: November 30

### **Process**

**Checklist for GPSA Awards** ([click for .pdf](#)) *Must be attached to each nomination.*

Notification is sent annually by the GPSA Office to each campus department (late September).

**Nominations:** Current members of the GPSA Council, the GPSA Executive Board, members of Administration, Full-time faculty members, or UNLV Staff may nominate current graduate students for this award. Nominees need not be GPSA Officers or Council members. Departments/Faculty may nominate more than one student from their respective departments. Each nomination application is to be regarded separate and unique; duplicate or closely worded recommendation letters will be invalidated. Each nomination must contain, and is limited to, the following:

- Formal letter of nomination from a current member of the GPSA Council, the GPSA Executive Board, member of Administration, full-time faculty member, or a member of UNLV Staff, using the guidelines noted under Criteria
- Curriculum Vitae containing a listing of scholarly activity, leadership/service activities, awards, and honors of nominee
- Supplementary materials as specified under Criteria
- In addition to the nomination materials, the nominee is required to include a brief (½ page) biography

### **Selection Timeline (All GPSA Awards):**

- Awards Committee formed: September (1 year term)
- All award nominations distributed to Awards Committee: December Council Meeting
- Awards Committee evaluates all nominations: January

- Awards Committee recommends recipients to the GPSA Executive Board by January 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Award recipients are announced at the February GPSA Council meeting. A formal letter of recognition will follow.
- All GPSA award recipients are presented their awards at the GPSA Research Forum in March.

**Composition of the GPSA Awards Committee:**

- Three GPSA department representatives, who must be appointed members of the GPSA Council, each representing separate colleges. In cases where the nominee is from the same department as a selection committee member, the chairperson will vote in lieu of the committee member with a conflict of interest.
- A non-voting (except in cases of tie decisions or conflict of interest) chairperson—a representative from the GPSA Executive Board.

**Criteria for GPSA Merit Award:**

**Letter of Nomination:**

- The nomination letter must clarify how the nominee has supported the Graduate and Professional Student Association. The letter should be written in such a way as to clarify the nominee's activities from other dedicated graduate and professional students.
- The letter must address clear evidence of how the nominee upheld the aims and goals of the Graduate and Professional Student Association. This evidence should compare the nominee's commendable acts in the context of the GPSA's mission statement. A fuller listing of these activities should be provided in the nominee's Curriculum Vitae, which must be included in the application packet.
- The letter of nomination must address the nominee's contribution in terms of long term value to the UNLV graduate and professional student body.

**Supplementary Materials:** Every nomination must contain the following additional materials:

- An abstract describing the nominee's contributions to the GPSA, the graduate and professional student body, and the University community.
- The nominee's current Curriculum Vitae.

\*\*Please note: These are competitive GPSA Awards. Incomplete applications will not be considered.