MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATE SCHOOLS (MAGS)
DISTINGUISHED MASTER'S THESIS AWARD
2015 Competition Guidelines

The Executive Committee of the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS) is soliciting nominations for the 2015 MAGS Distinguished Master's Thesis Awards in the two broad categories of **Social Sciences, and Physical Sciences and Engineering**. *In 2016, the categories will be Biological and Life Sciences, and Humanities.*

ELIGIBILITY

Each member institution may submit one nomination for the award. Each nomination requires the written endorsement of the Dean of the Graduate School or equivalent official.

To be considered, a thesis must contain original work that makes an unusually significant contribution to the discipline. It must be in a format that conforms to accepted disciplinary standards, and it must have been accepted as final by the degree-granting institution.

Nominations will be accepted in the disciplines of the **Social Sciences** and **Physical Science and Engineering** in which the institution offers a master's degree. Original works accepted by an institution "in lieu of thesis" (such as musical compositions, published books, works of art, computer software, etc.) may not be nominated.

The effective date of degree award, or the completion of master's degree requirements, must fall in the two-year period of July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2014, inclusive, for each nominee selected. *(Please note, the 2015 UW Oshkosh Distinguished Master's Research Award requires nominees who graduated in summer 2013, fall 2013, or spring 2014. This will allow the 2015 UW Oshkosh recipient to qualify for the 2016 MAGS competition if their discipline is in the Biological and Life Sciences, or Humanities.)*

The intent of the competition is to recognize scholarship by students who are pursuing their first graduate research degree. Individuals who received a Ph.D. (or comparable research degree) in any discipline prior to the writing of the master's thesis are not eligible. However, recipients of a first professional degree awarded prior to the writing of the thesis may be nominated.

NOMINATION PROCEDURES

The nomination consists of the following electronic submissions:

- a MAGS Nomination Form (to be completed by the Dean of Graduate Studies following the University's selection process)
- the abstract of the nominated thesis (submitted as a standalone document) describing the research and its significance, must not exceed 300 words, and must contain the title of the thesis and the name of the author, but not the name of the nominating institution.
- a complete electronic copy of the thesis emailed to MAGS (For thesis, clinical paper, and field projects that are subject to formatting through the Office of Graduate Studies, a PDF copy is already on record)
- a letter from the faculty mentor and (or) the Dean of the Graduate School or equivalent may accompany the nomination.

SELECTION PROCESS

The institution's selection process is the responsibility of that institution. *Please see the UW Oshkosh Distinguished Master's Research Award 2015 Competition Guidelines for UW Oshkosh's selection process*.

Recipients of the MAGS Distinguished Master's Thesis Award will receive a $750 honorarium. In addition, up to $500 will be available to each recipient for travel expenses to attend the Annual Meeting in April 2015 (the 2014 MAGS meeting was in Chicago, IL). It is expected that the winner's institution will cover any travel expenses that exceed the $500 provided by MAGS for the awardee to attend the meeting to receive the award. The faculty mentor or thesis advisor will also be invited to attend the presentation ceremony.