



## 2017 NORTH CAROLINA A&T OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION AND OUTSTANDING THESIS AWARDS

### Summary

- The nomination period for the 2017 N.C. A&T Outstanding Dissertation and Thesis Awards is now open.
- College Deans or their designee may nominate **one** person whose thesis/dissertation has been accepted in partial fulfillment of master's/doctoral degree requirements during the **2016 calendar** year (including summer sessions).
- Nominations from departments to their College Dean are due **Monday, February 20, 2017**.
- The College Dean's nominations are due to The Graduate College on **Friday, March 3, 2017**.
- Winners will be announced Friday, March 31, 2017.

### This document contains:

1. Eligibility
2. Evaluation Guidelines & Criteria
3. Research Awards Committee
4. Procedures for Submission
5. Complete Application Checklist
6. Awards
7. Outstanding Thesis/Dissertation Awards Nomination Cover Sheet
8. Timetable for Outstanding Thesis & Dissertation Awards

The GRADUATE COLLEGE is soliciting nominations for 2017 Outstanding Dissertation and Thesis Awards. The process:

- Each College will select one nominee each for each award.
- The names and application packets of the Outstanding Thesis winner at the college level, and the names and application packets of the Outstanding Dissertation winner, if applicable will be forwarded by the College to the Graduate College for review by the Research Awards Committee, whose members are appointed by the Provost.

**ALL NOMINEES MUST BE SUBMITTED BY DEPARTMENTS TO THEIR COLLEGES BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS. MONDAY FEBRUARY 20, 2017.**

**ALL NOMINEES MUST BE SUBMITTED BY THE COLLEGES TO THE GRADUATE COLLEGE BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS. FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2017.**

Winners will be announced on Friday, March 31, 2017.

## **1. Eligibility**

One University Outstanding Dissertation and Outstanding Thesis Award may be given each year. In the event of a tie in any category, recipients will share the award distinction. Criteria for each award are as follows:

- **Outstanding Thesis Award:** Nominees must be or have been a student at North Carolina A&T State University during the 2016 calendar year. The stipulations are: (1) Nominees must have completed their thesis as partial fulfillment of master's degree requirements during the 2016 calendar year; (2) Nominees must have completed all requirements for the master's degree and graduated during the 2016 calendar year, including summer sessions.
- **Outstanding Dissertation Award:** Nominees must be or have been a student at North Carolina A&T State University during the 2016 calendar year. The stipulations are: (1) Nominees must have completed their dissertation as partial fulfillment of doctoral degree requirements during the 2016 calendar year; (2) Nominees must have completed all requirements for the doctoral degree and graduated during the 2016 calendar year, including summer sessions.

## **2. Evaluation Guidelines**

The evaluation of research and creative productivity requires consideration of a variety of factors and must consider the quality and significance of each contribution. Each thesis and dissertation will be reviewed by the Awards Committee and will consider work conducted while the nominee has been a student at NC A&T.

Factors used to evaluate meritorious research and creative productivity include but are not limited to:

1. Clarity of style and presentation;
2. Scholarship;
3. Research methodology;
4. Contributions to the field or discipline;
5. Broader impact.

## **3. Research Awards Committee**

The Research Awards Committee that will evaluate and select winners is appointed by the Provost. This year's membership will be announced during the nomination period.

## **4. Procedures for Submission of Nominations**

1. A common application format is provided to each College Dean to ensure consistency in the selection process.
2. **The nomination packet should be emailed by the College Dean or Dean's designee in a single pdf file.**
3. The Dean of each College will submit to The Graduate College the completed application packets of the winners at the College level by Friday, March 3, 2017.
4. The final evaluation of applications will be made by the Research Awards Committee, members of which are selected by the Provost. During deliberations, the Committee may request supporting materials from nominees and/or may ask deans for additional information.

## 2017 NORTH CAROLINA A&T OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION AND THESIS AWARDS

5. The Research Awards Committee may recommend to the Graduate Dean one recipient (or, in the event of a tie, two) in each award category from the list of College award winners and nominees. They also may decline to recommend a winner for any award.

### 5. Complete application checklist

1. Appropriate cover sheet (both forms provided below).
2. A statement from the nominee giving an overview of his/her/their engagement in research and/or creative achievement and the work's relationship to North Carolina A&T's research vision. The statement should address: (a) quality of the work, (b) the broader impact of the nominee's work nationally and/or internationally, and (c) contribution to of the work to the advancement of the discipline.

*The statement is limited to two single-spaced typed pages using at least 10-point type.*

3. A career vita. Complete citations must be given for all published works.
4. A letter of endorsement from the major professor and either the Director of Graduate Studies or Department Chairperson.
5. An abstract of the thesis/dissertation (1-2 pages, double-spaced), prepared by the nominee.
6. Certification by the Graduate Dean or designee that the thesis/dissertation was approved in partial fulfillment of degree requirements within the 2016 calendar year including summer sessions. A copy of the signed Signature Page (signed by the committee members and Graduate Dean) will satisfy this requirement.
7. An electronic copy of the thesis/dissertation.

NOTE: Please be aware that reviewers are colleagues with expertise in diverse scholarly fields. It is important to address each nominee's achievements with information clarifying how the work qualifies as outstanding in the particular discipline represented. (For example, scholarly activity in the humanities may be judged in quite different terms from scholarship in Physics.)

### 6. Awards

Each recipient will be given a monetary award and a Certificate of Recognition.

- Outstanding Dissertation of the Year, \$500
- Outstanding Thesis of the Year, \$250

Each recipient will be recognized at the Research Awards Dinner.

## 7. OUTSTANDING THESIS & DISSERTATION AWARDS NOMINATION COVER SHEET

Nomination for:

- Outstanding Dissertation of the Year  
 Outstanding Thesis of the Year

PERSONAL INFORMATION				
Last Name:		First Name:		MI
Department:		# of years at NC A&T:		
College:		Campus phone #:		
		E-mail Address:		

Application package must include the following:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Nomination Cover Sheet	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vita
<input type="checkbox"/>	Personal Statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Letters of Endorsement
<input type="checkbox"/>	An abstract of the thesis/dissertation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Electronic copy of thesis/dissertation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Certification from the Graduate Dean or designee (signed Signature Page)		

On behalf of the College of \_\_\_\_\_ I  
am happy to endorse the person above for the 2017 University Outstanding Thesis or Dissertation Award.

Dean's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please submit the nomination package by Friday, March 3, 2017, to: -**

A. Ayanna Boyd-Williams  
Assistant Dean, The Graduate College  
120 Gibbs Hall

8. Timetable for Outstanding Thesis & Dissertation Awards

Event	Deadline
Departments submit their nominees' application packets to Colleges	Monday February 20, 2017
Deans submit the College winners' application packets to the Graduate Dean	Friday March 3, 2017
Application packets are available to the Evaluation Committee members for review in advance of meeting.	Beginning Tuesday March 7
Committee members meet to recommend award winners.	Between March 10 and March 24. Specific date to be set by the committee chair.
The Evaluation Committee forwards its recommendations for award winners to the Graduate Dean.	Friday March 24
Announcement of the award recipients	Friday March 31