

ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

JAMES L. FISHER OUTSTANDING THESIS COMPETITION

Purpose

The James L. Fisher Outstanding Thesis Competition is designed to promote recognition of graduate theses of the highest quality. An outstanding thesis from a master's degree program will be sent to a regional competition sponsored by the Midwest Association of Graduate Schools (MAGS). Entering the regional competition will promote a positive image of graduate education at Illinois State University to its neighboring institutions and provide student recognition.

Eligibility

The competition is open to students who have earned their master's degree AND completed their thesis within the calendar year July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2019. The student does not have to be on campus to be eligible for the competition.

The winning thesis of the James L. Fisher Outstanding Thesis Competition will be sent on to competition at the regional level, with the possibility of competition at the national level.

Campus Competition

Departments/Schools may submit master's theses and two accompanying letters of support to the college. Departments/Schools must submit their theses to the college judging panel for the initial phase of competition. No theses will be accepted from departments/schools unless approved by the college judging committee.

By September 27, 2019, each college will select a college winner. At that time, the student's thesis must be submitted electronically to jlkeena@ilstu.edu accompanied by two supporting letters. For the purpose of this competition, the College of Arts and Sciences will be divided into three divisions. The College will select a winning thesis from each of the following divisions; Sciences, Humanities, and Social Sciences.

Each college winner will be awarded \$200, made up of a \$100 contribution from each college and a \$100 contribution from the Graduate School. The winner of the university competition will be awarded an additional \$200, with the runner-up receiving an additional \$100.

The University Research Council will select the theses to be submitted to the MAGS regional competition. For the 2020 cycle, MAGS is seeking nominations in two broad categories: Biological/Life Sciences and Humanities. In 2021, the two broad categories will be Social Sciences and Mathematics, Physical Sciences, and Engineering. The University Research Council will select the theses to be submitted in each category. Authors of theses selected to represent Illinois State will receive an additional \$200 award.

The Graduate School will conduct an awards ceremony in the spring.

Summary of Awards:

All College thesis winners	\$200
Overall thesis winner	\$200 (additional)
Runner-up	\$100 (additional)
MAGS Entrant	\$200 (additional)

Funds (other than the college award) to cover university expenses of this competition are provided by the Graduate School.