

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 October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2009. 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. Note that the restriction against departments that also offer a doctoral degree has been eliminated.

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 11, 2009, each college will select a college winner and present the chosen thesis to Research and Sponsored Programs. 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 thesis to be submitted to the MAGS regional competition. This will be the thesis receiving the highest ranking among the college entrants. The thesis selected to represent Illinois State will receive an additional \$200 award. The Graduate School will conduct an awards ceremony following the selection of a campus thesis winner.

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 and Research and Sponsored Programs.

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Activity	Dates
Competition Announcement	July 29, 2009
Graduate Advisors submit nominations to chairs/directors	TBD by College
College judging completed	TBD by College
Submission of thesis to Research and Sponsored Programs (Must include: 2 letters of recommendation, 2 copies of the abstract, 2 copies of the thesis, and a resume of the nominee including current contact information.)	September 11, 2009
University Research Council judging	September 16 – October 16
Submission of Illinois State thesis to MAGS	November 9, 2009
MAGS deadline to receive submissions	November 9, 2009
Fisher Outstanding Thesis Awards Ceremony	November 30, 2009
Announcement of MAGS winners	March, 2010 (approx.)

Because the official deadlines for submission to MAGS will not be announced until October or November, the MAGS deadlines are based on previous years.