The purpose of the GPSA Merit Award is to acknowledge up to three graduate and professional students each academic year who have proven to be outstanding scholars in their field. Individuals can self-nominate themselves.

Application deadline: December 6

Process

Checklist/cover sheet for GPSA Awards must be attached to nomination. Notification is sent annually by the GPSA to each campus department (late fall semester).

Nominations: Only currently enrolled graduate and professional students may be nominated. Students must be enrolled for the full academic year, i.e. the fall and following spring semester. 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:

- A formal letter of nomination from at least one currently enrolled graduate or professional student, using the guidelines noted under “Criteria”
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)/resume containing a listing of scholarly activity, leadership/service activities, awards, and honors of nominee
- Optional documents, i.e. journal publications, conference programs, etc.

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: by the end of January
- Awards Committee recommends recipients to the GPSA Executive Board: by January 30th
- Awardees recognized at the annual spring Research Forum: Please check website for the date of event: http://gpsa.unlv.edu/forum/

Composition of the GPSA Awards Committee:

- GPSA department representatives 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 that committee member.
- A non-voting (except in cases of tie decisions or conflict of interest) chairperson, a member of the GPSA Executive Board.

Criteria:

Letter of Nomination:

- The signed and dated nomination letter must clearly delineate how the nominee has demonstrated outstanding performance to their department, campus, and the Las Vegas community. The letter should be written in such a way as to clarify the nominee's activities from other dedicated graduate and professional students. Additional letters of support are encouraged, but not required.
- The letter of nomination must address the nominee's contribution in terms of long term value to the UNLV graduate and professional student body.

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