

Kist Awards for Graduate Program

Students may be nominated for the following **Kist awards** by a faculty member, an advisor, the department head or the director of the MSC. The nomination process consists of a letter of nomination, student's CV, and optional supporting materials. Nominations are accepted year-round and reviewed by the GSC on a case-by-case basis. Awards are made as merited.

Department of Mathematical Sciences Outstanding Graduate Student Award in Research

To be eligible for this award, a student must have

1. Successfully passed the PhD written and oral comprehensive exams.
2. Exhibited engagement in the life of the department, such as through participation in coursework, seminars, colloquia and other relevant opportunities.
3. Exhibited outstanding achievement in research, e.g., submission of an article, exemplary thesis research, invited presentation at a conference, external recognition of research accomplishments.

Department of Mathematical Sciences Outstanding Graduate Student Award in Coursework

To be eligible for this award, a student must

1. Be a member of the graduate program in good standing.
2. Have exhibited engagement in the life of the department, such as through participation in coursework, seminars, colloquia and other relevant opportunities.
3. Have exhibited outstanding achievement in coursework at NMSU, as evidenced by supporting documentation such as faculty statements, transcripts, performance on master's final oral exam or performance on PhD comprehensive exams.

Department of Mathematical Sciences Outstanding Graduate Student Award in Teaching

To be eligible for this award, a student must

1. Be a member of the graduate program in good standing.
2. Have exhibited engagement in the life of the department, such as through participation in coursework, seminars, colloquia and other relevant opportunities.
3. Have exhibited outstanding achievement in teaching at NMSU, as evidenced by supporting documentation such as a teaching visit letter, a letter from a course coordinator or course evaluations.

Department of Mathematical Sciences Research Travel Award

This award consists of travel funds for the purpose of promoting and furthering the awardee's research, such as through presentation of original research at a conference, participation in a workshop or CBMS series, a collaborative research visit, or to conduct research at a lab or institute. To be eligible for this award, a student must

1. Be a member of the graduate program in good standing.
2. Have exhibited engagement in the life of the department, such as through participation in coursework, seminars, colloquia and other relevant opportunities.

Notes:

- a. The rationale behind "Excellence" awards as opposed to "Outstanding _____" awards is that more than one award could be given if there is more than one deserving student. This could help minimize disagreements or unfairness in ranking students. It also allows for more flexibility since the awards could be given on a rolling, case by case basis. For example, if a student is nominated for the Teaching Excellence Award in December based on a class taught in Fall, the GSC could review the nomination letter in January and decide then on whether to give the student the award. (The timeliness aspect could be important when applying for jobs.) This could be more efficient and less time-consuming than a competition structure in which nomination letters are solicited each spring and the committee then must debate rankings and worry over whether each student, advisor or research area is getting a "turn" at an award. With the suggested system, some years there could be several awards, and other years none. The disadvantage with "excellence" awards as opposed to "outstanding" awards is that they might seem a little less valuable on the resume, but the advantage could be that excellence awards would hopefully be easier to decide, less political, and less-time consuming for the GSC.
- b. Having 4 categories of awards may be too many in that this could create too much work for the GSC. My guess is that there won't be too many nominations for some of these. Some years there could be none in some categories. But I may be wrong about that. I wasn't sure for example whether to include the Academic Excellence award.
- c. Another possibility: These various awards could be named after someone, either from the recent or distant past at NMSU.