

COGS Disciplinary Leadership Award Guidelines and Conditions

1. Award amount

The amount awarded for a Disciplinary Leadership Award is \$1,000.00.

2. Eligibility:

Graduate and professional students regularly (not provisional or lifelong) enrolled in a graduate or grad-professional program (not a certificate program only) at MSU and who are in good standing in their programs may apply. Faculty or others are encouraged to nominate a graduate student (Please email fellowshipapps@grd.msu.edu to submit a nomination). Students must be enrolled for the minimum credits to be in full-time status or provide a justification for less than full-time status. A graduate or professional student can receive a Disciplinary Leadership Award once during their time at MSU.

3. Qualification for the Disciplinary Leadership Award

Consideration will be given to graduate and professional students who have clearly demonstrated leadership in their respective disciplines and/or professional societies at the local, state, regional, national, or international levels while a student at MSU. This award is not for leadership on MSU committees or governance bodies, even though those are important contributions. Examples, include:

- An award from the disciplinary or professional society
- Invited participation in a panel at a disciplinary and/or professional society meeting
- Presentation or poster session at a disciplinary and/or professional society meeting
- Service or leadership on a disciplinary and/or professional society committee
- Leadership role in a nationally-recognized graduate student organization linked to or sponsored by a disciplinary and/or professional society
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion leadership activities within a disciplinary and/or professional society**

Nominators/recommendations should come from a faculty member (at MSU or in the disciplinary society) with knowledge of your leadership activities and who is familiar with the impacts of your leadership activities.

NOTE: This award is not for leadership done or completed through a paid position at a disciplinary and/or professional society.

NOTE: For those doing DEI work in their respective disciplines and/or professional societies at the local, state, regional, national, or international levels, this “DEI leadership” is considered Leadership under the Disciplinary Leadership Award. **Do NOT apply for an Disciplinary Leadership Award if your DEI leadership activities are occurring on MSU campus or within a program, unit,

or department on campus with effects on campus communities. You should apply to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award instead (<https://grad.msu.edu/fellowships/cogs-dei-award>). Disciplinary and/or professional society leadership activities at the “local level” are not the same as doing diversity, equity, and inclusion work on campus, and cannot be considered for a DEI Award as this DEI work must happen within a program, unit, or department on campus and affect campus communities.

4. Application deadlines

The Disciplinary Leadership Award application deadline is due on the same date as the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Award. Applicants should check the Graduate School website for up-to-date deadlines.

5. Selection criteria and decision authority

A committee consisting of representative(s) from the Graduate School, 3 members of the COGS membership at large, and 2 graduate program directors will review applications based on students submitted Disciplinary Leadership Award Application and recommendations. The committee will select 3-5 candidates and forward them to the Dean of the Graduate School who will make the final decision. The Dean may also consider any remaining candidates in the pool.

6. Availability of funds

The Disciplinary Leadership Award is awarded to up to five students at \$1,000.00 each in recognition of their leadership activities. No additional funds are allotted to this award. There is only one application cycle each academic year for this award, administered by the Graduate School.

7. Distribution of funds:

This award is awarded as a fellowship. A fellowship is taxable. You will receive a tax form from the University at the end of the year. If you owe MSU any money, MSU will take what you owe directly from this award prior to deposition.

Recipients need to be enrolled for the semester in which they receive their funding. MSU must follow federal awarding rules.

NOTE: If you have federal loans or other needs-based loans/aid, the amount of your fellowship award may cause a reduction of your loan(s) or other financial aid. You may still wish to consider the fellowship as this will most likely reduce your total loan debt at graduation. Please seek advice from your Office of Financial Aid Counselor before you turn down a fellowship.

8. Conditions for Acceptance of Funding:

It is understood that the Applicant will, at his/her own expense, protect and hold harmless COGS, its officers, representatives, members, boards, employees, and agents from all claims, damages, costs, lawsuits and expenses, including but not limited to, all costs arising from administrative proceedings, court costs and attorney fees, that COGS may incur as a result of any act, omission, or negligence of the Applicant or any of its officers, members, employees, agents, subcontractors, or independent contractors which may arise out of this funding request.

The liability of COGS, its officers, representatives, members, boards, employees and agents with regards to the funding of the Applicant for any claims, costs, damages, losses, and expenses for which COGS is or may be legally liable, whether arising in negligence or tort, contract, or otherwise, shall not exceed the amount of funding provided by COGS to the Applicant. In no event shall COGS, its officers, representatives, members, boards, employees, and agents be liable for any indirect, special, or consequential damages.

The Applicant shall not transfer any right or interest in this Application without the prior written consent of COGS. The Applicant agrees to abide by all federal, state, and local laws and ordinances, as well as their student rights and regulations set forth by Michigan State University.