



UNIVERSITY OF  
**GEORGIA**  
Graduate School

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

**2026 Engaged Scholarship by Graduate Students Award**

**Nominations due Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

The Graduate School invites nominations for the *Engaged Scholarship by Graduate Students Award* to recognize extraordinary community-engaged scholarship and public service by graduate students. This award is established by the Graduate School in connection with UGA Public Service & Outreach and the Office of Service-Learning.

**Award:** The award recognizes graduate student engagement in endeavors that advance the public service, outreach, and engagement mission at UGA such as:

- engaged research, scholarship, and/or creative activity that is related to the student's program of study and/or career goals and is conducted as a mutually beneficial community-university partnership that addresses critical community needs;
- support of existing mutually beneficial community-university partnerships that address critical community needs; and/or
- high impact outreach-based teaching and learning, including experiential or academic service learning and/or curriculum development and delivery in collaboration with community partners.

Up to three students will each be awarded \$1,000 and receive recognition during Honors Week 2026.

**Submission Deadlines:** The submission process is divided into two parts. The letter of initial nomination is to be uploaded by the department's faculty Director of Graduate Studies in [GradStatus](#) form G178 by the deadline of Thursday, November 13, 2025. The full submission portfolio, to be completed by the student nominee and uploaded by the Director of Graduate Studies into [GradStatus](#) form G178, is due by Friday, December 5, 2025.

**Eligibility:** The nominee must be registered as a full-time graduate student during the semester of initial nomination (Fall 2025).

**Nomination Materials:** For the **initial nomination**, each graduate department is invited to nominate *one* graduate student based on a letter of recommendation by a faculty advisor, assistantship supervisor, or student self-nomination that addresses the award criteria. For multiple applications in the same department, department heads should establish their own

review process and earlier internal deadline to nominate *one* application for consideration. The letter is to be uploaded into [GradStatus](#) form G178 by November 13, 2025.

**Submission of portfolio:** Once notified of nomination by the Graduate School, student nominees should then create a portfolio and submit it via the Director of Graduate Studies in [GradStatus](#) G178 by December 5, 2025. The portfolio should consist of the following items, created by the student into a single Adobe Acrobat .pdf not to exceed 5MB, in this order:

(1) Cover page (including nominee's name, department/program, degree, email, and phone number);

(2) Current curriculum vitae;

(3) Letter of nomination and support from a major professor, Director of Graduate Studies, faculty mentor, or graduate assistant supervisor addressing the criteria for this award with a description of the collaboration and impact of the student on the outreach partner and/or the community served. The work and impact should go beyond the normal duties of a graduate assistantship.

(4) Personal statement: A one-page statement describing how you meet the award criteria. The statement should include evidence of how you have advanced the mission of public service, outreach, and engagement at UGA as well as how this engagement aligns with the student's future plans.

(5) Supporting materials for which there are two options (created by the nominee):

Option 1: a completed Graduate Portfolio in Community Engagement, certified by the UGA Office of Service-Learning (applicants are encouraged to submit Option 1 when possible);

OR

Option 2: a packet that includes the following:

- a. a written description of the project/work, its impact, and future significance with supporting evidence;
- b. a letter from an Outreach/Community Partner highlighting the nature and impact of the mutually beneficial partnership of the student's engagement;
- c. a list of presentations and/or publications that further scholarship and/or teaching related to community engagement; and
- d. grants, prizes and/or other recognition received by the student during graduate study.

**Review Process and Award Criteria:** Nominees and recipients will be evaluated and selected by reviewers based on the following criteria: 1) level of engagement, 2) benefit to the community/community partner, 3) quality of impact/outreach in addressing a need, 4) quality of scholarship in research/teaching, and 5) leadership. Nominees who serve as graduate assistants must demonstrate that their work and impact exceed the normal duties of a graduate assistantship.

**Questions:** Email us at [gradawards@uga.edu](mailto:gradawards@uga.edu) if you have questions or need additional information.