

## Guidelines

### RICHARD AND DONNA FALVO OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION AWARD SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY AT CARBONDALE

1. Purpose. The Richard and Donna Falvo Outstanding Dissertation Award is granted to recognize and promote outstanding research by doctoral students. It is a testament to the vital contribution of doctoral student research to the life of the University, the various disciplines, and society at large. Annual recognition of SIU's Outstanding Dissertation will also facilitate submission of such dissertation into national competitions. The award is given annually to that dissertation deemed to be the most outstanding from those submitted to the Graduate School in the immediately preceding academic year.
2. Criteria for Selection. Criteria include quality of research methods, significance of the topic and of the findings, and validity of the conclusions.
3. Nominations Process. Each doctoral program may nominate one dissertation annually. Nominations, prepared by the dissertation adviser with the student's approval, are to be submitted by a preannounced deadline to the Graduate School. A nomination shall consist of the student's name, ID number, dissertation title, and date submitted to the Graduate School (only dissertations already complete and accepted by the Graduate School are eligible), and a detailed statement of the nature and importance of the dissertation research according to the criteria above.
4. Selection Process. A faculty committee appointed by and convened by the Graduate Dean shall evaluate all nominations and select the winner. The committee shall be broadly representative of the types of doctoral programs at SIUC. The committee may draw up additional procedures and standards governing the nomination and selection process and criteria. If in any one year the committee feels that there is no dissertation worthy of this award, no award need be given.
5. The Award. An award will be granted to the winner of the Richard and Donna Falvo Outstanding Dissertation Award. In addition to the award, an appropriate certificate will also be provided to the recipient. The award will be announced prior to the May Commencement.