



## **Charles A. Caramello Distinguished Dissertation Award (2025)**

The Charles A. Caramello Distinguished Dissertation Award recognizes original work that makes an unusually significant contribution to the discipline. The competition will occur in Spring 2025. We invite nominations from colleges for Ph.D. dissertations defended in the calendar year 2024.

Applications are accepted within four broad disciplinary areas: 1) Mathematics, Physical Sciences, and Engineering; 2) Social Sciences; 3) Humanities and Fine Arts; and 4) Biological and Life Sciences. The Council of Graduate Schools uses these categories for the annual CGS/ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Awards. (For definitions of these disciplinary categories, please see Appendix A.)

Recipients of the Charles A. Caramello Distinguished Dissertation Award will receive an honorarium of \$1,000 and may be nominated by the University for the CGS/ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award.

Up to four Awards will be given each year, one in each of the four broad disciplinary areas. Both methodological and substantive quality will be judged. Nominees must write a 5-page abstract for this competition. This will serve as a more explanatory abstract than the one that may have been submitted with the dissertation.

Nominations will be made by colleges to the Graduate School.

**NOMINATION DEADLINE: Wednesday, February 26, 2025, by 12:00 noon.**

### **ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION**

To be eligible for this competition, a dissertation must have been defended in calendar year 2024. Eligible candidates will have graduated in May 2024, August 2024, or December 2024. Also, students who defended in 2024, but will graduate in May 2025 are eligible.

*Students, please contact your department for more information about the nomination process.*

*Departments and programs, if seeking to make a nomination, please consult with their college/school about their internal nomination process and deadlines.*

### **NOMINATION INSTRUCTIONS**

Each college may nominate at least one dissertation. Colleges that award more than 25 Ph.D.s annually (averaged over the past three years) may nominate an additional dissertation for each 25 Ph.D.s awarded, as reported by IRPA. (Nomination allotments can be found on Appendix B.)

Each dissertation must meet the eligibility requirement and must be written by a Ph.D. student whose home department is in the college making the nomination.

Upon making the nominations, the college will choose the disciplinary category deemed to be the most appropriate for each nominated dissertation.

## **NOMINATION PACKAGE**

Colleges must submit nominations to the Graduate School Awards Portal at [terpengage.umd.edu/gsaawards/s/](http://terpengage.umd.edu/gsaawards/s/) . The portal will ask for 5 separate documents (as referenced below)

Please include these five elements:

1. a Caramello Distinguished Dissertation Award Cover Sheet (*found on page 4, or [online](#)*);
2. a letter of recommendation from the dissertation supervisor. This letter should evaluate the significance and quality of the dissertation.
3. a letter of nomination from the College. The college nomination letter should include substantive contributions to the package and not simply cover or summarize the dissertation supervisor's letter.
4. a 5-page, double-spaced abstract of the dissertation, written by the candidate for this competition. **This is in addition to the abstract that is included in the dissertation.**
  - The abstract should be written by the nominee, and it should be written for a non-specialist audience.
  - Each page of the abstract should be numbered and bear the name of the nominee.
  - Appendices containing non-textual material, such as charts or tables, may be included in addition to the 5 pages
5. the nominee's brief C.V. (4 page maximum)

Please note, the cover sheet will ask for a link to the nominee's dissertation (on DRUM).

## **SELECTION**

The dissertations nominated for the Charles A. Caramello Distinguished Dissertation Award will be evaluated, and award recipients selected, by a multi-disciplinary, campus-level Selection Committee. A Distinguished University Professor will chair the Selection Committee.

Due to the interdisciplinary nature of some dissertations, the selection committee may move a dissertation from one of the four disciplinary areas to another.

The Committee expects the 5-page abstract to be written for a non-specialist audience.

## **CONTACT**

Please direct any questions to Robyn Kotzker, Program Director for the Office of Funding Opportunities ([rkotzker@umd.edu](mailto:rkotzker@umd.edu), 301.405.0281.)

## APPENDIX A

### Council of Graduate Schools Definitions for Dissertation Award Categories\*

**Mathematics, Physical Sciences and Engineering:** mathematics, statistics, computer sciences, data processing, systems analysis, chemistry, earth sciences, physics, geology, meteorology, astronomy, metallurgy, geophysics, pharmaceutical chemistry; aeronautical, architectural, biomedical, ceramic, chemical, civil, and electrical engineering sciences; environmental health engineering; geological, mechanical, mining, nuclear, and petroleum engineering. (For purposes of this competition, engineering technologies are not included.)

**Social Sciences:** agricultural economics, geography, anthropology, archaeology, economics, education, sociology, government (political science), demography, and psychology. (For purposes of this competition, history is considered with the humanities.)

**Humanities and Fine Arts:** history; philosophy; language; linguistics; literature; archaeology; jurisprudence; the history, theory and criticism of the arts; ethics; comparative religion; and those aspects of the social sciences that employ historical or philosophical approaches.

**Biological and Life Sciences:** biology; botany; zoology; ecology; embryology; entomology; genetics; nutrition; plant pathology; plant physiology; anatomy; biochemistry; biophysics; microbiology; pathology; pharmacology; physiology; and related fields. Also included are agriculture, forestry, zoology; and related fields.

\* *These lists are not all-inclusive.*

## APPENDIX B

### Nomination Allotments by College

Each college may nominate at least one dissertation. Colleges that award more than 25 PhDs annually (averaged over the past three years) may nominate an additional dissertation for each 25 PhDs awarded, as reported by IRPA.

AGNR	1	EDUC	4
ARCH	1	ENGR	5
ARHU	4	INFO	1
BSOS	3	JOUR	1
BMGT	1	PLCY	1
CMNS	6	SPHL	1



CHARLES A. CARMELLO
DISTINGUISHED DISSERTATION AWARD
Nomination Form (2025)

Colleges, please refer to Appendix B in the award guidelines to see your college's nomination allotments. Nominations (five documents) must be submitted to terpengage.umd.edu/gsawards/s/ by noon, Wednesday, February 26, 2025.

Nominee's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's UID Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Nominee's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Current Postal Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Program (or Field): \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Nominee's Dissertation: \_\_\_\_\_

Disciplinary Area\* (check one):

\_\_\_ Mathematics, Physical Sciences, and Engineering

\_\_\_ Social Sciences

\_\_\_ Humanities and Fine Arts

\_\_\_ Biological and Life Sciences

Date Dissertation was submitted to the Graduate School: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the dissertation in the ProQuest database? \_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

Please provide the link to access dissertation in DRUM \_\_\_\_\_

Name of College Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Department Nominator: \_\_\_\_\_

Dissertation Advisor's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dissertation Advisor's email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Dissertation Advisor's mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Due to the interdisciplinary nature of some dissertations, the selection committee may move a dissertation from one of the four disciplinary areas to another.

Direct questions to Program Director Robyn Kotzker, Office of Funding Opportunities (rkotzker@umd.edu)