

## Dr. James W. Longest Memorial Award for Social Science Research (AY 26-27)

The Longest Award, established by Mary Jack Wintle (Mrs. James W. Longest), honors the memory and outstanding personal and professional achievements of Dr. James W. Longest. It provides \$2,000 to support doctoral dissertation research in the social sciences with potential benefits for small and/or disadvantaged communities. Candidacy tuition remission (899 only) will be granted for each of two semesters (if not covered by other tuition remission).

Dr. James W. Longest served on the research faculty of Cornell University for ten years before coming to the University of Maryland in 1967. Dr. Longest retired and became Professor Emeritus in 1990. He took great interest in assisting students, for whom he set high professional standards, and continued advising students until his death in November 1992. Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Longest supported an interdisciplinary approach to problem solving in the areas of community development and the delivery of services in rural areas.

### Criteria for the Longest Award

A nominee must:

- Be a doctoral student advanced to candidacy by August 1, 2026, and student must be within two years of receiving the degree;
- Have an outstanding record in graduate studies;
- Have a history of involvement in some form of service to an external or campus community;
- Submit a statement of 1,000-1,500 words describing his or her community involvement and how the funds will be used to support dissertation research in the social sciences with potential benefits for small and/or disadvantaged communities. This statement should be written for a non-specialist audience.

Nomination package must include:

- Nomination Cover Sheet (see page 2);
- The nominee's personal statement (see above);
- The nominee's *curriculum vitae* (2 page limit);
- Recommendation letter from the dissertation supervisor (1-2 pages);

### Submitting Nominations

A program may nominate ONE candidate for the Longest Award. The nomination package should be submitted to the [Graduate School Awards Portal](#).

**Nomination Deadline: Noon on Wednesday, March 4, 2026.**

**Contact Information:** Please direct questions to Robyn Kotzker, Program Director for Office of Funding Opportunities, at 301-405-0281 or [rkotzker@umd.edu](mailto:rkotzker@umd.edu).

**Dr. James W. Longest Memorial Award for Social Science Research  
COVER SHEET**

James W. Longest Award Webpage: [gradschool.umd.edu/funding/student-fellowships-awards/dr-james-w-longest-memorial-award-social-science-research](http://gradschool.umd.edu/funding/student-fellowships-awards/dr-james-w-longest-memorial-award-social-science-research)

**Nomination Deadline: Noon, Wednesday, March 4, 2026**

**Complete Nominations include:**

1. Nomination cover sheet
2. Student written personal statement
3. Student's C.V.
4. Advisor's Recommendation Letter

Student's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Directory ID or (UMD Email address): \_\_\_\_\_

College/School (use 4-letter code): \_\_\_\_\_

Department (use 4-letter code): \_\_\_\_\_

*Each department/program may nominate ONE student for this award*

Date (or expected date) of reaching candidacy: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected date of graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Graduate Studies: \_\_\_\_\_

Department's Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_

**Programs:** Please gather these materials 1) this nomination cover sheet, 2) the student's personal statement, 3) the student's CV, and 4) Advisor's recommendation letter. Submit nomination to the GS Awards Portal at <https://terpengage.umd.edu/gsawards/s/>.