



**Graduate School Academic Achievement Awards  
(AY 21-22)**

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## The Dr. Mabel S. Spencer Award for Excellence in Graduate Achievement (AY 21-22)

The Spencer Award, established by the daughters of Dr. Mabel S. Spencer, honors the memory and outstanding professional achievements of Dr. Spencer. It carries a stipend of \$17,500 and candidacy tuition remission (if not covered by other tuition remission). Dr. Spencer taught at the University of Maryland from 1948 to 1968. Her energy, dynamic personality, and commitment to bringing about positive change made her a leader in the University community. Dedicated to programs and activities that advanced the interests of women at the University, Dr. Spencer was also known for her extraordinary ability to communicate with and provide assistance to her students, especially those from underrepresented minorities and from foreign countries.

A program may nominate ONE candidate for the Mabel S. Spencer Award. Nominations of women are especially encouraged for this award.

### Criteria for the Spencer Award

To be eligible, the nominee must:

- Have an outstanding record in graduate studies;
- Have a demonstrable potential to contribute to his or her field of study;
- Be a PhD candidate by August 1, 2021;
- Prepare a 1,000-1,500 word personal statement discussing academic experiences, accomplishments, challenges overcome, goals for the immediate post-doctoral period, and long-term career aspirations. This statement should be written for a non-specialist audience.

Nomination package must include:

- Nomination Cover Sheet  
*Available at [www.gradschool.umd.edu/funding/fellowships-awards/student-fellowships-awards/dr-mabel-s-spencer-award-excellence-graduate](http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/funding/fellowships-awards/student-fellowships-awards/dr-mabel-s-spencer-award-excellence-graduate)*
- Nomination letter from the Director of Graduate Studies or Department Chair;
- Recommendation letter from the dissertation supervisor (2 page limit);
- Recommendation letter from a faculty member (in addition to the dissertation supervisor) who has worked closely with the nominee in some capacity (2 page limit);
- The nominee's personal statement (see above); and
- The nominee's *curriculum vitae* (2 page limit)

### Submitting Nominations

Nominations for the Spencer Award must be made by the nominee's department/program. A program may nominate ONE candidate. Please submit each nomination package (as a single pdf file) to the Graduate School Awards Portal at <http://apps.gradschool.umd.edu/GSAwardsSystem/>.

**Nomination Deadline: Noon on Wednesday, March 3, 2021.**

**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 (AY 21-22)**

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, 2021, 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  
*Available at [www.gradschool.umd.edu/funding/fellowships-awards/student-fellowships-awards/dr-james-w-longest-memorial-award-social](http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/funding/fellowships-awards/student-fellowships-awards/dr-james-w-longest-memorial-award-social)*
- Nomination letter from the Director of Graduate Studies or Department Chair;
- Recommendation letter from the dissertation supervisor (2 page limit);
- Recommendation letter from a faculty member (in addition to the dissertation supervisor) who has worked closely with the nominee in some capacity (2 page limit);
- The nominee's personal statement (see above); and
- The nominee's *curriculum vitae* (2 page limit)

### **Submitting Nominations**

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

**Nomination Deadline: Noon on Wednesday, March 3, 2021.**

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



October 2020

## The Michael J. Pelczar Award for Excellence in Graduate Study (AY 21-22)

After earning multiple degrees at the University of Maryland culminating with a doctorate in 1941, Dr. Michael J. Pelczar's professional career at the University began in 1946 and spanned over 30 years. He was a Distinguished University Professor of Microbiology and served as Vice President for Graduate Studies and Research for many years. In honor of Dr. Pelczar's retirement in 1977, the Michael J. Pelczar Graduate Award was established from contributions made by friends and alumni and the award is intended to honor excellence in graduate studies.

The Michael J. Pelczar Award for Excellence in Graduate Study offers \$1,000 to an outstanding doctoral candidate who has demonstrated excellence beyond his or her course work, and who has served at least one academic year as a teaching assistant with a commendable performance.

### Criteria for the Pelczar Award

A nominee must:

- Be a doctoral student advanced to candidacy by April 1, 2021.
- Have demonstrated a high level of accomplishment in research;
- Have demonstrated excellence beyond course work (e.g., a dissertation that makes a significant contribution to a discipline, publications in national or international journals, election to honorary societies, and honors or awards by other groups);
- Have served at least one academic year as a teaching assistant with commendable performance; and
- Submit a personal statement of 1,000-1,500 words describing his or her accomplishments and other activities demonstrating excellence beyond course work. This statement should be written for a non-specialist audience.

Nomination packets must include:

- Nomination Cover Sheet  
*Available at [www.gradschool.umd.edu/funding/fellowships-awards/student-fellowships-awards/michael-j-pelczar-award-excellence-graduate](http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/funding/fellowships-awards/student-fellowships-awards/michael-j-pelczar-award-excellence-graduate)*
- Nomination letter from the Director of Graduate Studies or Department Chair;
- Letter of support from the student's advisor, describing the accomplishments of the student;
- The nominee's personal statement (see above); and
- The student's *curriculum vitae* (2 page limit)

### Submitting Nominations

A program may nominate ONE candidate for the Pelczar award. The nomination package should be submitted (as a single pdf file) to the [Graduate School Awards Portal](#).

**Nomination Deadline: Noon on Wednesday, March 3, 2021.**

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

October 2020



## The Phi Delta Gamma Graduate Fellowship (AY 21-22)

The Phi Delta Gamma Graduate Fellowship offers \$1,000 to a student who “best exemplifies interdisciplinary scholarship achievement.”

### Criteria for the Phi Delta Gamma Fellowship

A nominee must:

- Be enrolled in a graduate degree program at the University of Maryland;
- Be at any stage of his/her program, not necessarily the dissertation stage;
- Exemplify the spirit of interdisciplinary focus in research; and
- Submit a personal statement of 1,000-1,500 words describing his or her interdisciplinary scholarly achievement. This statement should be written for a non-specialist audience.

Membership in Phi Delta Gamma is **not** required.

Nomination packets must include:

- Nomination Cover Sheet  
*Available at [www.gradschool.umd.edu/funding/fellowships-awards/student-fellowships-awards/phi-delta-gamma-graduate-fellowship](http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/funding/fellowships-awards/student-fellowships-awards/phi-delta-gamma-graduate-fellowship)*
- Nomination letter from the Director of Graduate Studies
- Letter of support from the student’s advisor, describing the accomplishments of the student (2 page limit);
- The nominee’s personal statement (see above); and
- The nominee’s *curriculum vitae* (2 page limit)

### Submitting Nominations

Nominations for the Phi Delta Gamma Graduate Fellowship must be made by the student’s program. A program may nominate ONE candidates. Please submit each nomination package (as a single pdf file) to the Graduate School Awards Portal at <http://apps.gradschool.umd.edu/GSAwardsSystem/>.

**Nomination Deadline: Noon on Wednesday, March 3, 2021.**

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