

Whayne Award for Graduate Student Research Paper

This \$250 cash award is to recognize the best academic research paper written by a graduate student during the academic year while enrolled in the Hispanic Studies graduate program at the University of Kentucky. This award can only be received once and is open to graduate students in any year of study within the program. The award recipient will be announced at the department's awards ceremony at the end of the spring semester. Students should submit their paper by the deadline to the designated member of the Graduate Studies Committee as a pdf file. Both the deadline and designated faculty member are mentioned in the official announcement sent out each year.

Requirements:

- Research paper written in English or Spanish, akin to a journal article in the respective discipline rather than a dissertation chapter.
- Do NOT include your name in the file name or in a running header. Include your name ONLY on a final and separate sheet following the references list. It should be the only text on the page. We will not access the name until after reading all of the papers and rank ordering them and deciding on a winner. It is not a perfect system and there may be clues as to the author's identity, but we will try to be as impartial as possible.
- While there is no minimum or maximum length, the paper should represent a fully developed treatment of a particular topic with targeted research questions.

Essays submitted each year will initially be rank ordered by the members of the Graduate Studies Committee based on the following dimensions and then discussed until a consensus is reached as to the most deserving paper. The committee will consider the following factors:

- articulation of a clear thesis and/or research questions that appear to fill a gap in the current body of research on the topic;
- inclusion of a literature review addressing historical, conceptual, and/or theoretical background and fundamental contextual considerations;
- identification of a relevant and valid theoretical framework vis-à-vis the current study;
- presentation of a valid analysis of results for projects with empirical data or a nuanced textual and/or cultural analysis for textually-based—broadly construed—analysis;
- adoption of appropriate academic prose with a well-organized internal structure.