School of Public Affairs and Administration MPA SCHOLAR AWARDS and EMERGING STUDENT Awards Programs


Approved by the SPAA Faculty: February 8, 2010

Establishing the Award Criteria

During January and early February 2010, the tenured and tenure-track faculty (and term appointment) assigned to selected courses developed a set of award criteria for each selected course. These criteria were submitted to the SPAA faculty at the February faculty meeting for review, comment, modification and approval. These criteria will be in place for making awards for spring, summer and fall 2010. The awards will be made within 30 days following the submission of final semester grades for the selected courses. An assessment of the criteria and the awards process for each selected course will occur by the faculty in the fall 2010 semester. Modifications to the MPA Scholar Awards Program may occur upon approval vote by the tenured and tenure-track faculty.

Funding of the Awards

Funding of the awards initially (2010) will be from donor generated funds and EUP revenue sharing, with award amounts recommended by the Director of the School and approved by the SPAA core faculty.

Announcing the Awards, the Criteria, and the Awards Recipients

The existence of the awards and course-by-course criteria for selecting award recipients will be announced to the MPA student body, via the SPAA website and in the class sessions of the selected courses. Announcements of the awards program and the criteria for the awards will take place by February 20, 2010 for awards to be made spring, summer and fall 2010. Thereafter, announcement of the award availability and criteria will take place during the registration period for the subsequent semesters.

Announcement of the AWARDS recipients will be by a letter from the SPAA Director to the recipients within 45 days of the end of the awarding semester. Additionally, the award recipients will be announced in the Public SPAAce, on the SPAA website, and in other university and external communications where appropriate.
Selecting Award Recipients
Only tenured, tenure–track and term appointment faculty members assigned as instructor of record to the award-eligible courses are permitted to make recommendations for the scholar awards.

The course instructor of record making recommendations for the course awards will (a) utilize the criteria as adopted by the faculty, (b) evaluate students based on that criteria, (c) write a summary statement explaining how the student nominee meets the criteria for receiving the award, and (d) submit the evaluation and summary statement to the SPAA director for “concurrent” action and retention of the submission records in a SPAA file.

The Director of the SPAA will review the award recommendation and must concur with the faculty member’s recommendation in order for the award to be made.

Should the Director of the SPAA be the instructor of record for any of the selected courses, the above process will apply with the addition of a consultation with and review by another core faculty member for “concurrent action” prior to making an award.

General Criteria for the MPA SCHOLAR AWARDS

1. The award recipient must be admitted to the MPA program prior to the semester or for the semester in which the award is given.
2. The award recipient must be in good academic standing in the MPA program. Certificate students or those in non-degree seeking status are not eligible.
3. The award recipient must be earning at least a “BA” or “A” in the course for which the award is to be made, according to specific criteria noted for each award.
4. The criteria established for the award in each selected course must be related to academic achievement in the course, individual progress in mastering the course, accomplishing course outcomes, and quality of the assignment(s) for which the award is being made.
5. The award recommendation is to be made for students enrolled in the faculty member’s course during the semester for which the award is being made.
6. The enrollment for the course selected for an award must be at least ten (10) students at the end of the semester in which the award will be given.
7. Awards are credited to the award recipient’s student account for the semester following the semester in which the award is made. For student recipients enrolled
in the last course of their MPA program, awards will be distributed to the student at their address of record within sixty (60) days at the end of the semester.

8. Faculty are not required to nominate any student in a selected course for an award if no student on the course roster is deemed by the instructor to have performed with the exemplary quality required to receive an award.

Specific Criteria for the MPA SCHOLAR AWARDS: Established by faculty responsible for making the award nomination. Criteria must be approved by the core faculty before consideration of candidates for the award. The following awards are available:

1. RESEARCH PROPOSAL AWARD – available to 1 student in PADM 6060 meeting the following criteria:

   a. The student developed a professional research proposal for rigorous scholarly or analytical work including:

      1.) A clearly defined problem,

      2.) A comprehensive theoretical discussion by drawing from the relevant literature including from other courses,

      3.) A logical conceptual framework,

      4.) A well-thought out research design with clear strategies for data acquisition and analysis, and

      5.) Clear and logical writing and oral presentation.

   b. The research proposal of the student is considered to be the best among the class participants.

2. BEST PROJECT PAPER AWARD- available to 1 student in PADM 6800 meeting the following criteria:

   The student conducted an original research project consisting of professional analysis of a management problem leading to practical implementation in a governmental or nonprofit setting, or theoretical inquiry in the field of public administration, which meets or exceeds the standards established by the faculty member of record, and is determined to be the best among this class of participants.

3. ORGANIZATION THEORY and BEHAVIOR AWARD – available to 1 student in PADM 6080 meeting the following criteria:
The student received the highest scoring on a combination of the final paper requirement and the oral presentation.

4. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARD – available to 1 student in PADM 6130 meeting the following criteria:

   a. The student earned an A in the course.
   
   b. The student achieved the highest combined score in the class for the application sections of major course exams, case study review papers, and any external research papers or projects assigned in the course.
   
   c. The student had an excellent record of attendance (no absences for Sessions 6 and 12) and active participation in class discussions and E-Learning Discussion Board discussions.
   
   d. The student completed all assignments in the course.
   
   e. The student was judged to have directly accomplished the learning outcomes and objectives set for the course.
   
   f. The overall performance of the nominee was considered by the instructor to be exemplary, substantially above and beyond that of any other student in the course.

   Each of the six criteria are equally weighted, ten points maximum each for a possible score of 60 points. All “A” students will be scored against these criteria. In the case of a tie, the student with the highest overall GPA in the MPA program will be the award recipient.

5. CONCEPT MAPPING AWARD – available to 1 student in PADM 6120 meeting the following criteria:

   The student demonstrated the best use (completeness as defined by labeling links and including concepts; and accuracy) of the concept mapping tool to provide evidence of learning concepts.

6. SUPERVISORY SKILLS/ COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD – available to 1 student in PADM 6290 meeting the following criteria:

   a. The student earned at least a BA in the course.
b. The student achieved the highest score on the supervisor/site community learning partner assignment according to the rubric established in the syllabi.

c. The student had an excellent record of attendance (no more than one excused absence and no unexcused absences).

d. The student was judged to have directly accomplished the learning outcomes and objectives set for the course.

7. PERFORMANCE AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AWARD – available to 1 student in PADM 6390 meeting the following criteria:

   a. The student earned an A in the course.
   b. The student achieved the highest combined score in the class for the application sections of major course exams, case study review papers, and any external research papers or projects assigned in the course.
   c. The student had an excellent record of attendance (no more than one excused absence and no unexcused absences) and active participation in class discussions.
   d. The student was judged to have directly accomplished the learning outcomes and objectives set for the course.
   e. The overall performance of the nominee was considered by the instructor to be exemplary, substantially above and beyond that of any other student in the course.

   Each of the five criteria are equally weighed, ten points maximum each for a possible score of 50 points. All “A” students are scored against these criteria. In the case of a tie, the student with the highest overall GPA in the MPA program is the award recipient.

8. NONPROFIT GOVERNANCE AWARD – available to 1 student in PADM 6400 meeting the following criteria:

   The student received the highest combined total score on the nonprofit organization analysis project and the nonprofit governance analysis project. Should a tie occur, review of the top papers will occur by another SPAA faculty member with recommendation/consultation to the instructor of record.

9. HEALTH PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT – available to 1 student in PADM 6510 meeting the following criteria:
The student received the highest combined total score on the final paper and the oral presentation.

**SUMMARY of AWARDS**

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<tr>
<th>AWARD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Proposal</td>
<td>Sp, Su, F</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best Project Paper</td>
<td>Sp, Su, F</td>
<td>300</td>
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<td>Organization Theory and Behavior</td>
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<td>Local Government</td>
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<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concept Mapping</td>
<td>Sp, F</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supervisory Skills/Community Engagement</td>
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<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Performance/Info Technology</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>200</td>
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<td>Nonprofit Governance</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Planning/Management</td>
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Total Cost of MPA SCHOLAR AWARDS Spring 2010, SU2010, F2010 = Not to exceed $3300

In addition to the above selected course awards known as MPA SCHOLAR AWARDS, there shall also be a MPA EMERGING STUDENT AWARD – an award given to no more than two (2) students in any semester (Spring, Summer, Fall) meeting the following criteria:

a. The student is in his/her first semester of classes after being admitted to the MPA program,
b. The student earned at least a 3.8 cumulative GPA for all courses taken in the semester,
c. The student is not a recipient of any of the above scholar awards (1-9), and

d. The student demonstrated extraordinary initiative and collegial participation in the classroom as he/she engages in learning of new concepts.

A list of students meeting the criteria a-c will be provided to core faculty. The number of students meeting criteria a-c in any semester must be equal to or greater than 10 students. If less than 10 students meet criteria a-c in any semester, the award shall not be given. Core faculty will discuss the evaluation of the students on criteria d, and by consensus recommend to the Director nominees for the Emerging Student Award. The Award shall be in the amount of $75 per student.