



UGA College of Engineering Outstanding Dissertation Award

The College of Engineering (CENGR) is pleased to announce the availability of the Outstanding Dissertation Award. This award recognizes a Ph.D. dissertation of exceptional originality, rigor, and impact in engineering, successfully defended during Spring 2025, Summer 2025, or Fall 2025.

Criteria include but are not limited to:

- Originality and significance of the research question and contributions.
- Methodological rigor, technical quality, and clarity of exposition.
- Scholarly impact and visibility, including publications, patents/disclosures, presentations, data/software releases, or adoption by the field.
- Potential for future influence, such as applications, scalability, or translational outcomes.
- Professional conduct and research stewardship, including reproducibility, ethics, compliance during the Ph.D.

Eligibility

- Nominee must be a Ph.D. student in the College of Engineering whose dissertation defense occurred in: Spring 2025, Summer 2025, or Fall 2025.
- The dissertation must have been successfully defended and submitted to the Graduate School by the relevant semester deadline.

Nomination Process

- Nominations must be submitted by the Major Professor. Nominations can be made at [this link](#).
- Each Major Professor may nominate up to one dissertation per cycle.
- Nominations will be accepted until 5:00 pm, February 6th, 2026 (Friday).

Upon receipt of nominations, the CENGR Faculty Honorifics Committee will contact nominees to request a dossier of achievements relevant to this award.

Dossier Requirements

Submit as a single PDF (maximum 15 pages, including appendices/letters):

- Nomination Letter (Major Professor): 2 pages max. Summarize the dissertation's contributions, novelty, impact, and the nominee's role and independence. Address publications, awards, and anticipated influence on the field.
- Dissertation Abstract: 1 page.
- Selected Evidence of Impact: up to 4 pages total. Representative peer-reviewed papers (accepted/published), patents or disclosures, software or data releases, notable presentations, invited talks, awards, fellowships, or media.
- Defense & Submission Verification: 1 page
- Nominee's Curriculum Vitae: up to 3 pages.
- Letters of Support (max 2): From committee members, collaborators, or external experts (avoid redundancy with the nomination letter).
- Supporting documents and appendices.
- Dossiers must be submitted by 5:00 PM on February 25, 2026, via the submission link that will be provided later.

Selection and Recognition

- Dossiers will be evaluated by the CENGR Faculty Honorific Committee.
- The recipient will be honored at the CENGR Celebration of Excellence.