

# University Awards: Students of the Year

## Competition Information Packet

2023-2024

## Applicant Guidelines

On behalf of Student Engagement, Advocacy & Leadership (SEAL) we are excited to invite you to apply for the Student

by Friday, February 23, 2024, at 11:59 PM.

- II. Any falsification on an application or during the competition will result in disqualification.

## Application Process

- I. The 2024 Selection Round includes:
- a. **Round 1. Application Review** – The Application Review will thoroughly assess that your application is complete and will be judged on the basis of your application. Applicants must earn a total of at least 80 points in this round to move forward to Round 2 (See Requirements and Scoring for more information).
  - b. **Round 2. Interview Round** - Those who are invited to participate in this round will be notified by Wednesday, March 13, 2024 if you have qualified for the interview round. Please note this is over Spring Break so we encourage you to pay attention to your student email to sign up for an interview time. Interviews will take place March 18-22, 8am-5pm.
  - c. **Round 3. Final Presentation** – This round is only for finalists for Senior Honors and Graduate Student of the Year only and will include a 20 minute presentation and Q&A session with a different panel of judges. These will be conducted April 8-9, 8am-5pm, and candidates will be contacted by March 26 to select an interview time.
- II. Finalists
- a. There will be 10 Senior Honor finalists and 5 finalists for Graduate, Junior, Sophomore, and Freshman categories.
  - b. A photoshoot for your official headshot will be scheduled upon notification of the finalists.
  - c. The 30 candidates will be required to attend the University Student of the Year on Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> from 5pm-7pm in the RSC Beggs Ballroom. RSVPs will be sent out to finalists upon notification.

## Scholarships

- I. Applicants will not only be competing for their respective title but will also be competing for scholarships awarded to the finalists.
- a. **The Freshman of the Year:** The top 5 Finalists will receive a \$500 scholarship each, and the Freshman of the Year will receive an additional \$500 (\$1000 total for winner).
  - b. **The Sophomore of the Year:** The top 5 Finalists will receive a \$500 scholarship each, and the Sophomore of the Year will receive an additional \$500 (\$1000 total for winner).
  - c. **The Junior of the Year:** The top 5 Finalists will receive a \$500 scholarship each, and the Junior of the Year will receive an additional \$500 (\$1000 total for winner).
  - d. **The Graduate Student of the Year:** The top 5 Finalists will receive a \$500 scholarship each, as well as a medal and the Graduate Student of the Year will receive a medal to wear at commencement. The Graduate Student of the Year will receive an additional \$1500 scholarship (\$2000 total for winner).
  - e. **The Senior Honors:** The Top 10 finalists will be named the 2024 Senior Honors, and will each receive a Wheat Shock Leadership Society stole, the official Senior Honors lapel pin, a \$500 scholarship each, eligibility of additional Senior Honors need-based scholarships selected by the Committee. One of the 10 will be selected as the Undergraduate Student of the Year and will receive an additional \$1500 scholarship (\$2000 total for winner).



v. Non-University Involvement

**Q: Can past Man and Woman of the Year, Student of the Year, or Graduate Student of the Year candidates and finalists apply for the Student of the Year competition?**

A: Those who have made it to the interview round of their respective competition may apply again, but past finalists and winners are not eligible to apply.

**Q: Who can/should write the letter of recommendation?**

A: Someone with credibility should write the letter. Faculty and staff from institutions which you have had a working relationship with, an employer, or an advisor of an organization you are a member in are good options. Keep in mind the letter of recommendation is part of the Overall Impression score.

**Q: How are candidates chosen for interviews?**

A: There will be an initial screening of applications to determine which applicants will move on to the interview round. Take care to ensure that you submit materials in the requested formats and complete all required forms. Failure to do so is the primary reason candidates are removed from the process in the initial screening.

**Q: Can I apply if I am studying abroad this semester?**

A: Yes. We can make accommodation to conduct both the interview and presentation rounds through video conferencing software.

**Q: Can I apply if I am employed through Wichita State?**

A: Yes. This scholarship competition is open to any student who meets the minimumthe 00re @: Can I apply