

Applicant Guidelines

On behalf of Student Engagement & Belonging, we are excited to invite you to apply for the Students of the Year Awards. Recognized at the annual University Awards, the Students of the Year celebrates the

Application Process

I. The 2025 Selection R

level of engagement.

III. Letter of Recommendation Received

- a. One letter of recommendation is to be submitted for each candidate. If additional letters are submitted, the first letter received will serve as the official letter of recommendation.
- b. Please note that these letters will be reviewed during Round 2, however, if applicants do not have a letter of recommendation, the applicant will be disqualified.

Round 2: Interview and Presentation Round

This category allows judges to learn more about the candidates. If selected for this round, be prepared to be available to interview during the dates listed above. **This is the only time interviews will take place.**

I. Presentation

- a. You will prepare a 10-minute sharp PowerPoint presentation covering the following based off of the award below.

i. Freshman Candidates:

1. Share your story of how you have contributed to Wichita State University and the surrounding community during your freshman year. Highlight specific examples of your involvement in campus organizations, leadership roles, volunteer activities, or service projects. How have these experiences shaped your personal growth, and what impact have you made?

ii. Sophomore Candidates:

1. Reflect on your transition from freshman to sophomore year. How have you grown in your scholarship, leadership, involvement, and service at Wichita State University? Share a specific project, initiative, or role where you made a significant impact, and describe how your approach has evolved as you've gained more experience and confidence.

iii. Junior Candidates:

1. Reflect on a leadership role you've held during your junior year at Wichita State University. How have you inspired others? Share a specific project, initiative, or role where you made a significant impact, and describe how your approach has evolved as you've gained more experience and confidence.

What have you learned from these experiences, and how have they shaped your development as a leader?

II. Interview

- a. Judges will spend the remaining 10-minutes asking you questions. Areas to be judged include:
 - i. The candidate's ability to answer questions efficiently and the manner in which the candidate conducts themselves during the interview.
 - ii. Candidates will be judged by a panel of approximately three to five judges. Each interview will last a maximum of 20 minutes with judges asking questions of each candidate based on the information provided on their application

III. Letter of Recommendation Received:

- a. One letter of recommendation is to be submitted for each candidate. If additional letters are submitted, the first letter received will serve as the official letter of recommendation.
- b. Applicants that do not receive a letter of recommendation will be disqualified.

- IV. While judges are given a common scoring rubric, each judge evaluates the candidates individually and scores accordingly.

Round 3: Final Presentation Round (Senior Honors and Graduate Student of the Year Finalists Only)

This category allows the final panel of judges to learn more about the candidates and aid them in selecting the Undergraduate Student of the Year and the Graduate Student of the Year. If selected for this round, be prepared to be available to interview and deliver your final presentation during the dates listed above. **This is the only time interviews will take place.** The total session will be 25 minutes each.

I. Presentation

- a. Each finalist will deliver a 10-minute presentation to a panel of different judges on why they should be chosen as this year's winner. Further guidelines will be presented at a later date.

II. Final Interview

- a. Following the presentation, the judges will move immediately into a brief question and answer period.

- III. While judges are given a common scoring rubric, each judge evaluates the candidates individually and scores accordingly.

Student of the Year Competition

Frequently Asked Questions

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 minimum criteria regardless of employment status.

Q: Can I apply if I am an online student?

A: Yes. If you meet the minimum criteria and are currently enrolled at Wichita State, you are eligible to apply.