

## **Physics Graduate Student of the Year Award Proposal**

The **Physics Graduate Student of the Year Award** recognizes outstanding academic and scientific achievements of Physics graduate students. The winner will receive an award of \$300. Other finalists will receive awards of \$100. These awards are sponsored by the Department of Physics.

### **Eligibility**

Applicants must be enrolled in the Physics graduate program by the application deadline and be formally supervised by a member of the Physics faculty (in-unit, secondary-joint, or courtesy appointments).

### **Required materials**

The application documentation must include:

- A list of all the classes attended during the two previous academic years, including grades obtained. If no classes were attended, the overall GPA must be included. Alternatively, a copy of the student transcript at UCF suffices.
- A list of teaching assignments and a description of research-based teaching methods implemented.
- A list of publications including papers published, accepted for publication, or submitted; a list of oral and/or poster presentations at conferences; a list of patents issued and/or pending. The contribution of the applicant to each item listed must be identified. Only items where the student's affiliation to the UCF Department of Physics appears can be included.
- A list of professional activities in the two previous academic years (e.g., organization of activities (GSPS, WiPS, APS@UCF), tours, involvement with projects, etc.).
- A self-assessment statement describing accomplishments in academic, research, and professional activities, no longer than one page.
- Up to two recommendation letters from individuals who can evaluate the applicant's academic and scientific activities. Members of the selection committee are barred from providing recommendation letters. Recommenders send their letters directly to the graduate program assistant.

### **Award Process and Evaluation**

The chair of the Department of Physics will appoint a selection committee of three faculty members who will select three unranked finalists based on the submitted materials. The selection should be based on academic performance, contributions to research activities, and professional service. Applicants submit their applications as a single pdf file to [soto@ucf.edu](mailto:soto@ucf.edu).

To avoid a conflict of interest between any selection committee member and the applicants, the Department chair will appoint committee members whose advisees are not in the pool of applicants. In the case when a student supervised by the Department chair applies to the award, the dean or an associate dean of the College of Sciences who does not have any conflict of interest shall be assigned to choose the selection committee members. The selection process will take place during the Spring term and the prizes awarded before the final exams in April.

For Spring 2026, the deadline for applications is on **March 31st**.