NOMINATIONS: A college/school may nominate up to three students for an award in the field of Social Sciences. If a college/school nominates more than three students in any one category, the Graduate School will contact one of the unit's associate deans (or another designee) to downselect the top three candidates. The effective date of degree award, or the completion of doctoral degree requirements and dissertation, must lie in the period of July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2016, inclusive, for the nominee selected.

MATERIALS: Each nominee must prepare an abstract (not to exceed 10 pages) of his or her dissertation, typed, double-spaced, with one-inch margins on 8-1/2" x 11" white paper. In addition, appendices may be included (e.g., charts or tables). The pages should be numbered, and each should bear the name of the nominee. Letters from three references, evaluating the significance and quality of the dissertation work, are to be included in the nomination materials. One of these letters is to be from the nominee’s dissertation supervisor, another from a member of the nominee’s dissertation committee, and the third from a person of the nominee’s choice. The nominee should submit the following through the nomination form: letters of reference, abstract, and dissertation (or a Web link to the dissertation).

DEADLINE: The deadline for submission to the Graduate School is Friday, April 15, 2016.

CRITERIA: The Graduate School will name an Award Committee whose members have established records in the disciplinary areas under consideration. At their discretion, additional consultation may be sought. The nominated dissertations should represent original work making an unusually significant contribution to the respective discipline. Both methodological and substantive quality will be judged. The following list, although not all-inclusive, illustrates the fields considered as Mathematics/Physical Sciences/Engineering: Mathematics, Statistics, Computer Sciences, Data Processing, Systems Analysis, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Physics, Geology, Meteorology, Astronomy, Metallurgy, Geophysics, Pharmaceutical Chemistry; Aeronautical, Architectural, Biomedical, Ceramic, Chemical, Civil, and Electrical Engineering Sciences; Environmental Health Engineering; Geological, Mechanical, Mining, Nuclear, and Petroleum Engineering. (For purposes of this competition, Engineering Technologies are not included.).

AWARD: Distinguished Dissertation Awards, consisting of an honorarium of $500 and a certificate of citation, will be presented at the Graduate School’s annual awards ceremony.

NOTE ONE: The Distinguished Dissertation Award operates on a two-year cycle in regard to fields of competition. The fields of competition for 2016 will be Social Sciences and Mathematics/Physical Sciences/Engineering; for 2017, Biological/Life Sciences and Humanities/Fine Arts. This cycle corresponds with that of the Council of Graduate Schools/ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award. Winners of the Auburn Distinguished Dissertation Award may be nominated by the Graduate School for the CGS/ProQuest Award.

NOTE TWO: No student may be nominated in more than one award category (e.g., in two consecutive years) and may not be nominated by more than one college.