

FAQ  
Frequently Asked Questions

## **Outstanding Undergraduate Student Commencement Award, School of Social Science, Humanities and Arts**

### **Who is eligible for this award?**

Students who are graduating in the fall 2013, spring or summer 2014 semester and who have a major GPA and a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or greater. Students are not required to be in attendance at the graduation commencement, but it is highly encouraged.

### **How are submissions evaluated for the award? And who evaluates the submissions?**

Submissions are reviewed by a review committee comprised of SSHA faculty and staff. Each submission is assessed based on a points scale attached to each of the three areas of "significant research," "leadership initiative," and "service." Only students with the minimum GPA requirements will have their submissions reviewed.

### **How many students in SSHA will be awarded?**

The number of awardees depends on the number of applicants with exceptional submissions. Instead of having a set number of awards, the review committee will target those submissions that are particularly strong based on the points scale. This means of choosing a total number of SSHA awardees permits all exceptional submissions to be celebrated.

### **Does this award appear on student transcripts?**

The award does not appear on student transcripts.

### **How many times can a student be nominated and does this impact the students' likelihood of being awarded?**

A student should be nominated only once. If there is more than one submission for a student, the submission with the strongest statement of eligibility will be used.

### **How soon will communication go out to the students who are to be awarded?**

Prior to commencement, awardees will be notified by Dean Aldenderfer, as will the nominating faculty members.

### **How will the winning students be acknowledged?**

Awardees will be recognized at Spring 2014 commencement, and receive a placard.

### **If a student is a minor in SSHA, but not a major in SSHA, is the student still eligible to be awarded?**

Only SSHA majors can be nominated for the award.

**How is the GPA calculated for this award?**

Major and Cumulative GPAs are calculated as of the last completed term, fall 2013. Students can access their major GPA through their MyAudit.

**Does the nominated student need to demonstrate activities in all three of the areas of “significant research,” “leadership initiatives,” and “service,” or can a student be competitive with only two out of three of these areas?**

Students who are nominated for the award should demonstrate participation in one or more of these three areas. A submission is stronger and scores better when the student has demonstrated participation in two or three of the areas. In the submission, nominators should be as comprehensive as possible about the students' record of participation in the three areas.

**Who should I contact with further questions?**

Faculty members should contact [Assistant Dean James Ortez](#). Students should contact [Dr. Young-Alfaro](#).