

Undergraduate Awards & Scholarships

Expository Writing Program Essay Awards are given for essays written in Expository Writing I and II during the award's academic year. Essays are nominated by expository writing instructors. Committee: **Knoblauch** (abbyk@ksu.edu), Faculty of the Expository Writing Committee.

The Touchstone Undergraduate Creative Writing Awards are nominated by the editors of *Touchstone* for the best short fiction, nonfiction, and group of poems submitted by K-State undergraduates. Any K-State undergraduate may submit up to thirty pages of fiction or nonfiction and/or up to ten pages of poetry. Previous first place winners are ineligible. Committee: **Maranda Haile** < marandah@ksu.edu>, student editors of *Touchstone*; Smith.

The Clark M. Brink Memorial Essay Awards are given for essays exhibiting "the highest degree of originality of composition and excellence in handling a topic treating or exemplifying the values of humanistic studies." The essay should be no more than 5,000 words. Competition for the award is open to all undergraduate students at K-State. Committee: **Sarmiento** (tsarmiento@ksu.edu), Faculty of the Undergraduate Advisory Committee.

The Kansas State Professional Writing Awards are given for single-authored writing assignments of five pages or more written by an undergraduate student for English 417 between Spring 2025 and Spring 2026. Committee: **Yu** (hyu1@ksu.edu), Goins, Payne, Tarner.

The Kansas State Technical and Scientific Writing Awards are given for the best final project, single-authored papers written by an undergraduate student for English 415 or English 516 between Spring 2025 and Spring 2026. Each instructor teaching these courses may nominate two papers for this award. Committee: **Yu** (hyu1@ksu.edu), Carlson, Merrick.

The Hallam Walker Davis Memorial Scholarship is granted to an undergraduate English major on the basis of the student's academic performance in English. No application is required. Committee: **Sarmiento**, Faculty of the Undergraduate Advisory Committee.

The Kenneth and Martha Chappell Scholarship is awarded to a junior, senior, or fifth-year English major who has a minimum of 3.0 GPA and exhibits financial need. Students should complete the application form posted at <<http://tinyurl.com/englawardapply>>.

Committee: **Sarmiento**, Faculty of the Undergraduate Advisory Committee.

The Lamb Memorial Scholarship recognizes outstanding creative writing students and students who play intercollegiate basketball. The scholarship is granted in alternating years (spring of even years) to sophomore, junior, and senior students who are enrolled in creative writing or who play intercollegiate basketball. Previous winners are ineligible. No application is required. Committee: **Brimhall**, Faculty of the Creative Writing Committee.

The Brewster Rogerson Scholarship is awarded to undergraduate English majors who display financial need and academic excellence. Students should complete the application form posted at <<http://tinyurl.com/englawardapply>>. Committee: **Sarmiento**, Faculty of the Undergraduate Advisory Committee.

Most Promising Student Award recognizes an English major early in the completion of the program. The award is made on the basis of faculty recommendations. No application is required. Committee: **Sarmiento**, Faculty of the Undergraduate Advisory Committee.

Undergraduate Excellence in English Award recognizes an English major upon completion of the program. The award is made on the basis of faculty recommendations. No application is required. Committee: **Sarmiento**, Faculty of the Undergraduate Advisory Committee.

Undergraduate Leadership and Service Award recognizes outstanding contributions to the life of the department. The award is made on the basis of faculty and student recommendations. No application is required. Committee: **Sarmiento**, Faculty of the Undergraduate Advisory Committee.

Undergraduate & Graduate Awards

The Cultural Studies Essay Award is given for the best undergraduate and graduate essays on literature or other arts (i.e. film, television, popular culture, or highbrow culture) treated in a way that includes the social, political, or economic concerns from the historical time of the work. Essays may be of any length up to 20 pages. Committee: **Eiselein** (eiselei@ksu.edu), Faculty of the Cultural Studies Concentration.

The Composition/Rhetoric Research Award is awarded for the best undergraduate or graduate scholarly paper in composition and

rhetoric, including but not limited to the areas of professional-technical writing, writing center scholarship, writing pedagogy, literacy studies, and composition and rhetorical theory. Committee: **Marzluf** (marzluf@ksu.edu), Faculty of the Writing, Rhetoric, and Technical Writing Concentration.

The Jonathan Holden Distinguished Poetry Prize is awarded to a junior or senior English major or graduate student in English with a 3.00 or above overall GPA who demonstrates exceptional creative writing of poetry and exceptional critical examination of poetry. Previous recipients are ineligible. No application is required. Committee: **Brimhall**, Dodd, Sarmiento, Leader-Picone.

The Lukens Scholarship is awarded to a sophomore, junior, or senior English major or graduate student in English and who, preferably, is also from Mitchell County, Kansas. No application is required. Committee: **Sarmiento**, Faculty of the Undergraduate Advisory Committee.

The Writing Center Excellence Award is awarded to an undergraduate or graduate student staff member who displays all-around excellence in Center work. For information about online nominations, see <<http://www.k-state.edu/english/writingcenter>>. Committee: **Gray**, Writing Center Senior Staff.

Graduate Awards, Scholarships, & Fellowships

The Earle R. Davis Scholarship recognizes the outstanding graduate student scholar in the M.A. Program in English. Recipients of the scholarship must demonstrate overall academic merit and scholarly performance and potential. No application is required. Committee: **Leader-Picone**, Faculty of the Graduate Advisory Committee.

The Robert W. Conover Memorial Award is given to an outstanding first year GTA. The winner is determined by academic performance. No application is required. Committee: **Leader-Picone**, Faculty of the Graduate Advisory Committee.

The Jerome Johanning Memorial Scholarship recipient will be an outstanding GTA in the Department of English. Selection criteria: academic performance and a packet of supporting material that includes teaching evaluations, a one-page self-evaluation of the applicant's teaching, a syllabus for each course taught, and examples of materials used in class.

To be eligible for consideration, an applicant must be returning to K-State to continue work on the M.A. degree the fall following the award of the scholarship and must be nominated by the English Department. Supporting materials will then be solicited from the finalists. Committee: **Leader-Picone**, Knoblauch, Faculty of the Graduate Advisory Committee.

The Graduate Student Critical Essay Award is given for the outstanding critical or scholarly essay by an English Department graduate student on a topic in literary studies. Since the word "essay" derives from the French "essayer," meaning to try, to attempt, and to test, entries should exhibit a high standard of research and analysis; any theoretical or methodological approach is welcome. Submissions can be in any form including, but not limited to, scholarly essay, photo essay, video essay, podcast, or other visual art or creative work. Submission should not exceed 20 pages or 15 minutes in length. Committee: **Tung** (sftung@ksu.edu), Faculty of the Literature Concentration.

The Anne P. Grindell Memorial Scholarship recognizes academic excellence as achieved by any student enrolled in the English Department's M.A. program who also holds a valid State of Kansas Teaching Certificate. Previous winners are ineligible. No application required. Committee: **Leader-Picone**, Faculty of the Graduate Advisory Committee.

The Children's Literature Graduate Essay Award is given for the outstanding critical or scholarly essay written by an English Department graduate student on a topic in children's and/or adolescent literature and culture. The essay should exhibit a high standard of research and analysis; any theoretical or methodological approach is welcome. Submissions should not exceed 20 pages in length. Committee: **Nel** (philnel@ksu.edu), Faculty of the Children's Literature Concentration.

The Seaton Fellowships for Graduate Students in Creative Writing are awarded to incoming graduate students for their first year of study in the K-State English Department's creative writing program. This award perpetuates the memory of Mary Holten and Richard M. Seaton. The Seaton awards are based on the merit of the student's creative writing sample; at least one award is given to a Kansas resident or Kansas native. No application required. Committee: **Brimhall**, Faculty of the Creative Writing Concentration.

The Graduate Creative Writing Awards are given for outstanding fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction written by M.A. students as part of their program of study at K-State. Award recipients are determined from manuscript submissions of up to twenty pages of fiction, non-fiction, and/or five pages of poetry. Students may enter in all genres. Previous first place award winners are ineligible in the same genre. Winners in each genre are selected by an independent off-campus judge of national reputation. Committee: **Brimhall** (brimhall@ksu.edu), Faculty of the Creative Writing Concentration.

The Esther Glenn Scholarship is awarded by the Director of Graduate Studies, with the advice and recommendation of the Graduate Advisory Committee, to an incoming, first-year M.A. student on the basis of academic excellence. No application required. Committee: **Leader-Picone**, Faculty of the Graduate Advisory Committee.

The Expository Writing Exemplary Teaching Award is awarded for outstanding teaching in the expository writing program. Two GTAs are selected each year by the Expository Writing Committee. No application required. Committee: **Knoblauch**, Faculty of the Expository Writing Committee.

The Expository Writing Most Promising GTA Scholarship is awarded by the Director of Graduate Studies, with the advice and recommendation of the Graduate Advisory Committee, to outstanding incoming, first-year M.A. students appointed as GTAs on the basis of general academic excellence and anticipated success as a GTA. No application required. Committee: **Leader-Picone**, Knoblauch, Faculty of the Graduate Advisory Committee.

The Popkins Scholarships are awarded to those graduate students in English judged most meritorious among each academic year's incoming M.A. students. No application required. Committee: **Leader-Picone**, Faculty of the Graduate Advisory Committee.

The Peggy and Gary Edwards Scholarship is awarded by the Director of Graduate Studies, with the advice and recommendation of the Graduate Advisory Committee, to outstanding incoming, first-year M.A. students on the basis of general academic excellence. Students in all tracks are eligible for consideration. No application required. Committee: **Leader-Picone**, Faculty of the Graduate Advisory Committee.

The Department of English Annual Student Awards, Scholarships, and Fellowships 2026-2027

Each year, the Department of English grants awards, scholarships, and fellowships to its graduate teaching assistants (GTAs), to its graduate and undergraduate students, and to other K-State undergraduate students. This announcement briefly describes those awards, scholarships, and fellowships. Unless stated otherwise, award amounts may vary from year to year.

General Requirements

The deadline for submitting nominations or applications for each of the following awards, scholarships, and fellowships (except where noted) is:

11:59 p.m. CT Friday, March 13, 2026

To be considered eligible for an award, scholarship, or fellowship, an entry must be submitted as an email attachment (Word or PDF) to the chair of the Award Committee by the above deadline.

In the body of your email, please include the following:

- *Name of award, scholarship, or fellowship*
- *Name of nominee or applicant*
- *Nominee's or applicant's K-State email address, and Wildcat ID*

Note: Some awards do not require application or submission. Unless otherwise noted, only one submission per award per student.

Selection and Presentation

All award, scholarship, and fellowship winners must be selected by the various committees on or before **April 10, 2026**. Questions about individual awards, scholarships, or fellowships should be directed to the appropriate committee chair (chairs are noted in **boldface** type).

Names of the award, scholarship, and fellowship winners will be announced by **May 1, 2026**.