



AUBURN UNIVERSITY

College of Sciences and Mathematics

Office of the Dean

COSAM Academic Awards

Student Awards

Qualification
And
Nomination Package
Information

2026

Student Awards

Dean's Medalist

- Number of recipients from each department/program based on student enrollment
- Nominated by faculty, staff, or students (self-nominations accepted); selected by Departmental Awards Committee
- Presented at COSAM Honors Convocation in April
- Dean's Medalists may also be considered by the COSAM awards committees for another Senior award, including:
 - The Dean Schneller Award
 - President's Award
 - Comer Medal
 - Physical Sciences
 - Biological Sciences
 - Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award (selected by a university-level committee)

Qualifications for award nomination:

- Senior class standing (expected to graduate Fall 2025 or Spring 2026). Nominations for students who graduated in Summer 2025 may be considered if recommended by their department or program.
- Selection is based on:
 - Academic performance
 - Coursework related: high GPA, their impressive performance in a particularly difficult course, showing strong improvement, academic scholarships and awards, or appearing on the Dean's List, etc.
 - Outside regular coursework: participating in academic Olympiads or hackathons or performing undergraduate research (at Auburn or another research institution), and presenting research at a conference, workshop, or seminar.
 - Character (This is a nebulous term that includes a range of qualities, such as showing compassion, being honest and fair, displaying self-discipline in setting and meeting goals, making good judgments, showing respect to others, showing courage in standing up for beliefs, being responsible, and being good citizens. These traits are often demonstrated through community service, outreach, and leadership activities.)
 - Leadership activities in e.g., clubs and organizations, or taking the initiative in arranging tutoring sessions, working as an Undergraduate Learning Assistant, a Supplemental Instruction Leader, peer tutor. etc.
 - Service to the campus or wider community. This includes activities such as volunteering at Esperanza House, the

Student Awards

Eagles Program, Campus Kitchens, or an animal shelter.

- Professional potential
 - Internships, the potential to join a graduate program, participation in a professional organization, additional professional accreditation, or involvement in undergraduate research.

Department Awards Representatives will submit a single pdf file for each of their department's awardees that includes:

- At least one letter of support (no limit to maximum number of letters)
- Nominee's resume/CV
- Any additional documentation requested for other Senior awards (listed above)

Biological Sciences - up to two Dean's Medalists awardees
Biomedical Sciences - up to three Dean's Medalist awardees
Chemistry and Biochemistry - one Dean's Medalist awardee
Geosciences - one Dean's Medalist awardee
Mathematics and Statistics - one Dean's Medalist awardee
Physics - one Dean's Medalist awardee

Student Awards

The Dean Scheller Award

Honoring a Legacy of Excellence

- One recipient annually
- Each COSAM department/program recommends up to two candidates for the award (these can be among the Dean's Medalist selections, or in addition to them)
- COSAM Schneller/Comer/Presidents Awards committee will select up to three finalists
- The finalists will be invited to a small luncheon/meet-and-greet with the Selection Committee consisting of the Dean or the Dean's Designee, the DCB Chair, and another member appointed by the Dean's Office (different than the COSAM Schneller/Comer/Presidents Awards committee)
- The Selection Committee makes the final selection of one recipient.
- Plaque presented at COSAM Honors Convocation in April

Qualifications for award nomination:

- Senior class standing (expected to graduate Fall 2025 or Spring 2026)
- Grade point average of at least 3.5
- Selection is based on
 - Research and/or research mentorship: Evidence of intellectual curiosity, initiative, and active engagement in scientific research. Involvement in mentoring others in research is a valued enhancement.
 - Leadership and leadership development: Demonstrated leadership or active pursuit of leadership growth through roles such as student organization officer, Undergraduate Learning Assistant, Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, Supplementary Instruction Leaders.
 - Representation of COSAM Excellence: Demonstrates a strong commitment to representing the College of Sciences and Mathematics in a positive and visible way, both within the college and in the broader community.
 - Collegiality and the Human Touch: A consistent pattern of kindness, respect, and thoughtful engagement with others. Recipients foster a supportive environment through meaningful conversation, encouragement, and genuine care for the well-being of their peers.

Nomination package should be a single pdf file that includes:

- Resume/CV
- Two to three letters of support (two required, three recommended), with at least one focusing on research achievement. One letter from peers commenting on their collegiality and engagement with peers is desired but not mandatory.

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Comer Awards

- Each year two medals are awarded to COSAM students
 - Comer Medal for Excellence in Biological Sciences
 - Comer Medal for Excellence in Physical Sciences
- Selected by the COSAM Schneller/Comer/Presidents Awards committee
- Departmental Dean's Medal awardees and other strong candidates who were nominated for the Dean's Medal will be recommended for the Comer Medal at the discretion of the Department Awards Representatives
- Presented at Comer Medal ceremony in Spring

Qualifications for award nomination:

- Senior class standing (expected to graduate Fall 2025 or Spring 2026)
- Maintains "either the best examination or best class record in their branch of studies". This is interpreted to mean all academic activities: performance in courses, research accomplishments, etc.

Department Awards Representatives will submit a single pdf file for each department recommendation that includes:

- At least one letter of support (no limit to maximum number of letters)
- Nominee's resume/CV
- Any other relevant additional documentation

History of the Comer Medal

- Longest running, continuously awarded student recognition at Auburn University
- First award was made in 1924 by Governor B.B. Comer
- Notable recipients included E.T. York and O'Neal Smitherman

Student Awards

President's Award

- One recipient per college/school
- Selected by the COSAM Schneller/Comer/Presidents Award Committee
- Departmental Dean's Medal awardees and other strong candidates who were nominated for the Dean's Medal will be considered for the President's Award at the discretion of the Department Awards Representatives
- Plaque presented at AU ceremony in April

Qualifications for award nomination

- Senior class standing (expected to graduate Fall 2025 or Spring 2026)
- Grade point average of at least 3.40
- Outstanding qualities of:
 - Leadership
 - Citizenship
 - Character
 - Promise of professional ability

Department Awards Representatives will submit a single pdf file for each departmental recommendation that includes:

- At least one letter of support (no limit to maximum number of letters)
- Nominee's resume/CV
- Any other relevant additional documentation

Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award

- Two recipients for the university, one male and one female
- Selected by the AU Office of Student Affairs
- Please ensure any COSAM nominations are copied to ADAA
- Presented at AU ceremony in April
- Nominations (due to AU Student Affairs Office in mid-February) are welcome from faculty, students, staff

<https://studentaffairs.auburn.edu/about/awards/>

Qualifications for award nomination:

- Senior class standing (expected to graduate Fall 2025 or Spring 2026)
- Unsurpassed humanitarian leadership
- Contributions to the community

Student Awards

Outstanding Junior

- Number of recipients from each department/program based on student enrollment
- Nominated by departmental faculty, staff, or students (self-nominations accepted); selected by departmental awards committee
- Presented at COSAM Honors Convocation in April

Qualifications for award nomination:

- Junior class standing (expected to graduate Summer 2026, Fall 2026, or Spring 2027; students and their academic advisors should be able to verify this information)
- Selection is based on:
 - Academic performance
 - Coursework related: high GPA, their impressive performance in a particularly difficult course, showing strong improvement, academic scholarships and awards, or appearing on the Dean's List, etc.
 - Outside regular coursework: participating in academic Olympiads or hackathons or performing undergraduate research (at Auburn or another research institution), and presenting research at a conference, workshop, or seminar.
 - Character (This is a nebulous term that includes a range of qualities, such as showing compassion, being honest and fair, displaying self-discipline in setting and meeting goals, making good judgments, showing respect to others, showing courage in standing up for beliefs, being responsible, and being good citizens. These traits are often demonstrated through community service, outreach, and leadership activities.)
 - Leadership activities in e.g., clubs and organizations, or taking the initiative in arranging tutoring sessions, working as an Undergraduate Learning Assistant, a Supplemental Instruction Leader, peer tutor. etc.
 - Service to the campus or wider community. This includes activities such as volunteering at Esperanza House, the Eagles Program, Campus Kitchens, or an animal shelter.
 - Professional potential
 - Internships, the potential to join a graduate program, participation in a professional organization, additional professional accreditation, or involvement in undergraduate research.

Student Awards

Department Awards Representatives will submit a single pdf file for their department's awardee that includes:

- At least one letter of support (no limit to maximum number of letters)
- Nominee's resume/CV

Biological Sciences - up to two Outstanding Junior awardees

Biomedical Sciences - up to three Outstanding Junior awardees

Chemistry and Biochemistry - one Outstanding Junior awardee

Geosciences - one Outstanding Junior awardee

Mathematics and Statistics - one Outstanding Junior awardee

Physics - one Outstanding Junior awardee

Student Awards

Outstanding GTA Award

- Up to three recipients selected
- Selected by the COSAM GTA, Teaching, Mentor awards committee
- Presented at COSAM Honors Convocation in April
- Nominations are welcome from faculty, students, staff

Qualifications for award nomination:

- Graduate student with teaching assistantship assignment
- Promotes excellence within COSAM courses, teaching laboratories, and/or recitation sections
- Exhibits superior character (This is a nebulous term that includes a range of qualities, such as showing compassion, being honest and fair, displaying self-discipline in setting and meeting goals, making good judgments, showing respect to others, showing courage in standing up for beliefs, being responsible, and being good citizens. These traits are often demonstrated through community service, outreach, and leadership activities.)
 - Leadership activities in clubs and organizations, or taking the initiative in arranging tutoring sessions, etc.
 - Service to the campus or wider community. This includes activities such as volunteering time to work at a charitable organization.
- Possesses professional potential
 - This could include the potential to be hired as a university faculty member, participation in a professional organization, additional professional accreditation, or involvement in DBER research.

Department Awards Representatives will submit a single pdf file for each recommendation that includes:

- At least one letter of support (no limit to maximum number of letters; letters MUST address the nominee's teaching performance)
- Nominee's CV (including full record of courses taught at Auburn)
- A complete set of teaching evaluations

Student Awards

Outstanding International Student Awards

- Up to two recipients awarded each year
- Selected by the COSAM Dean's Office
- Presented at the COSAM Honors Convocation banquet in April
- Nominations are welcome from faculty, staff, and students (self-nominations are welcome)

Qualifications for award nomination:

- Graduate student or undergraduate student
- Academic performance
 - Undergraduate students:
 - High GPA
 - Impressive performance in a particularly difficult course, or showing strong improvement over time
 - Academic scholarships, awards, or undergraduate research fellowships
 - Appearing on the Dean's List (undergraduate students)
 - Participating in academic Olympiads or hackathons
 - Conducting and presenting research at a conference, workshop, or seminar
 - Graduate students
 - High GPA
 - Publication of research in high-impact scientific journals, especially as first author
 - Presentation of research at local, regional, national or international conferences, especially recognizing national and international conference presentations
 - Fellowships, especially predoctoral fellowships from federal sponsors (e.g. NIH, NSF, USDA)
 - Contributions to teaching, especially if recognized by department for their teaching excellence while serving as Graduate Teaching Assistant
 - Other awards that may be provided by department, college or university related to research or teaching
- Character (This is a nebulous term that includes a range of qualities, such as showing compassion, being honest and fair, displaying self-discipline in setting and meeting goals, making good judgments, showing respect to others, showing courage in standing up for beliefs, being responsible, and being good citizens. These traits are often demonstrated through community service, outreach, and leadership activities.)

Student Awards

- Leadership activities within professional organizations, their department, and/or the Auburn University campus
 - Undergraduate students
 - Participation in clubs and organizations
 - Taking the initiative in arranging tutoring sessions
 - Working as an Undergraduate Learning Assistant, a Supplemental Instruction Leader, peer tutor, etc.
 - Serving in a leadership role for the department, college, and/or university
 - Service to the campus or wider community through volunteer activities
 - Graduate students
 - Graduate Student Council or other student organizations at department, college or university level
 - Performance above and beyond the regular duties of their Graduate Research Assistantship or Graduate Teaching Assistantship
 - Service to the campus or wider community through volunteer activities
 - Collegiality to include interactions with faculty members, university staff, and other students.
- Professional potential
 - Internships, the potential to join a graduate program (for undergraduate students), participation in a professional organization, additional professional accreditation, or involvement in research.

Department representatives submit a single pdf file for each department recommendation that includes:

- At least one letter of support (no limit to maximum number of letters)
- Nominee's resume/CV
- Any other relevant additional documentation

There is no limit to the number of recommendations each COSAM department makes for these awards. Up to two awardees will be selected each year.



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Faculty Awards

Qualification
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Faculty Awards

Outstanding Faculty Undergraduate Teacher Award

- One recipient selected
- Selected by the COSAM GTA, Teacher, Mentor awards committee
- Presented at COSAM Honors Convocation in April
- Nominations are welcome from faculty (self-nominations accepted), students, staff

Qualifications for award nomination:

- COSAM faculty member
- Promotes instructional excellence within COSAM courses, teaching laboratories, and/or recitation sections
- Exhibits superior character (This is a nebulous term that includes a range of qualities, such as showing compassion, being honest and fair, displaying self-discipline in setting and meeting goals, making good judgments, showing respect to others, showing courage in standing up for beliefs, being responsible, and being good citizens. These traits are often demonstrated through leadership activities, community service, and collegiality.)
 - Leadership activities within professional organizations, their department, and/or the Auburn University campus
 - Service to the campus or wider community. This includes activities such as volunteering time to work at a charitable organization, serving on department, college-level, and/or university-level committees, etc.
 - Collegiality to include interactions with other faculty members, university staff, and students.
- Demonstrates exemplary professional engagement
 - Participation in university-level instructional opportunities, membership in a professional organization related to teaching, additional professional accreditation, and/or involvement in DBER research

Department Awards Representatives will submit a single pdf file for each recommendation that includes:

- At least one letter of support (no limit to maximum number of letters; letters MUST address the nominee's teaching performance)
- Nominee's CV (including full record of courses taught at Auburn)
- Teaching evaluations (graduate and undergraduate courses) from at least five semesters during the past five years
- Peer teaching evaluations (from at least 1 course)

Faculty Awards

Outstanding Faculty Undergraduate Mentor Award

- One recipient selected
- Selected by the COSAM GTA, Teaching, Mentor awards committee
- Presented at COSAM Honors Convocation in April
- Nominations are welcome from faculty (self-nominations are accepted), students, staff

Qualifications for award nomination:

- COSAM faculty member
- Promotes creative scholarly work by undergraduates in COSAM
- Mentors students engaged in laboratory and/or field research
- Exhibits superior character (This is a nebulous term that includes a range of qualities, such as showing compassion, being honest and fair, displaying self-discipline in setting and meeting goals, making good judgments, showing respect to others, showing courage in standing up for beliefs, being responsible, and being good citizens. These traits are often demonstrated through leadership activities, community service, and collegiality.)
 - Leadership activities within professional organizations, their department, and/or the Auburn University campus
 - Service to the campus or wider community. This includes activities such as volunteering time to work at a charitable organization, serving on department, college-level, and/or university-level committees, etc.
 - Collegiality to include interactions with other faculty members, university staff, and students
- Demonstrates exemplary professional engagement
 - Participation in university-level research opportunities for undergraduate students, membership in a professional organization related to mentoring undergraduate research, additional professional accreditation, and/or involvement in mentoring research

Department Awards Representatives will submit a single pdf file for each recommendation that includes:

- At least one letter of support (no limit to maximum number of letters; letters MUST address the nominee's mentoring performance)
 - Nominee's full CV
- A brief (1-2 pages) statement from the nominee addressing their mentoring philosophy