



2026 CNSM Outstanding Project Awards

Celebrate Commencement

In recognition of most outstanding projects

M.S. projects completed in Spring 2025, Summer 2025, Fall 2025, Winter 2026, or Spring 2026 are eligible for consideration for the Outstanding Project Award in their major department. CNSM will recognize up to six truly outstanding projects (one possible per department)*. Outstanding Projects are nominated by the student's project advisor. Each departmental nomination will be noted on the commencement program.

**From the submissions received, a college-level committee will select one to be forwarded as CNSM nomination for the [Graduate Dean's 2026 Distinguished Project Award](#).*

Deadlines

- Advisor nominations due to department offices: **Monday, February 16, 2026.**
- Department recommendation due to the CNSM College Office: **Monday, March 2, 2026.**

Criteria

- **Innovation & Creativity** – Degree to which the project demonstrates originality, novel thinking, or innovative use of methods or concepts.
- **Application & Relevance** – Extent to which the work addresses meaningful problems and contributes to practical, translational, or disciplinary advancement.
- **Execution Plan & Communication** – Strength of the project design and execution, including organization, technical rigor, and effectiveness of presentation and communication.

Directions

Nominators: By Monday, February 16, 2026, send an email from your [@csulb.edu](#) email address to your respective major department (see [CNSM Commencement Awards](#) for department email addresses) with the following information about the student in the body of the email:

1. *Full Name (as it should appear on the certificate)*
2. *Campus ID Number*
3. *Mailing Address*
4. *Email Address*
5. *Phone*
6. *Major*
7. *Project Title*
8. *Project Advisor*
9. *Degree Completion Date*

10. *G.P.A. - CSULB*
11. *G.P.A. - cumulative*
12. *Indication (yes/no) of expected availability to attend Commencement*

Attach the following documentation:

- *Student's Curriculum Vitae*
- *Current unofficial transcript from MyCSULB*
- *Abstract (250-300 words)*
- *PDF of the current version of the Project*
- *Student Reflection (200-300 words) describing:*
 - *The meaning of the project for the student's own growth*
 - *The significance of the work*
 - *Its impact (academic, professional, or community)*
- *Project Advisor Nomination Letter which should include the following:*
 - *Student's name, program, and project title.*
 - *Scholarly/Professional Merit: Brief summary of the quality of the student's project commenting on originality, rigor, creativity, and execution (as relevant).*
 - *Contribution & Impact: Significance of the work to the discipline, profession, or community and potential for dissemination (publication, presentation, application in practice, etc.).*

Departments: By Monday, March 2, 2026, review and evaluate submitted projects for "outstanding" in accord with the criteria. From those (if any) projects found to be "outstanding," select one project and submit to the CNSM College Office (email CNSM-Commencement@csulb.edu).