



2026 CNSM Outstanding Thesis Awards

Celebrate Commencement

In recognition of most outstanding theses

M.S. theses completed and submitted for acceptance to the Thesis Office by established deadlines for degree completion in Spring 2025, Summer 2025, Fall 2025, Winter 2026, or Spring 2026 are eligible for consideration for the Outstanding Thesis Award in their major department*. CNSM recognizes up to six truly outstanding theses (one possible per department)**. Outstanding Theses are nominated by the student's thesis advisor. Each departmental nomination will be noted on the commencement program.

**If a thesis completed in Spring 2025 was nominated last year, it is not eligible for nomination again. Each thesis may be nominated only once.*

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

Deadlines

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

Criteria

- **Scholarly Merit & Rigor** – Shows strong depth of scholarship, methodological rigor, and well-reasoned analysis.
- **Originality & Contribution** – Clear evidence of original thinking resulting in a substantive contribution to the field.
- **Clarity & Quality of Communication** – Outstanding organization and effectiveness in written and oral presentation of ideas and results.
- **Significance & Impact** – Demonstrated importance of research findings with strong potential for dissemination (e.g., conference presentation(s) and/or publication(s)).

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 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. *Thesis Title*
8. *Thesis 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 Thesis*
- *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)*
- *Thesis Advisor Nomination Letter which should include the following:*
 - *Student's name, program, and thesis title.*
 - *Scholarly/Professional Merit: Brief summary of the quality of the student's thesis 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 theses for "outstanding" in accord with the criteria. From those (if any) theses found to be "outstanding," select one thesis and submit the application to the CNSM College Office (email CNSM-Commencement@csulb.edu).