

The Stuart W. Thomas Research in Psychology Award

The “Thomas Award” is given to the Marshall undergraduate student who distinguishes themselves as the student performing and writing up the most outstanding empirical research in psychology for the past year in either the form of a research paper or poster. This will focus on empirical or data-driven research with a quantitative emphasis. The following represents the criteria and judging for this award.

On Monday, on the last week of classes, all Marshall student applicants will submit their research papers and posters to the Thomas Award Committee. This committee, consisting of at least 3 Marshall Psychology faculty members, will evaluate the papers and posters according to the criteria listed in this document. They will first read all entries and then reread them rating each in terms of the following criteria. No evaluator will rate work submitted under their direction. The scales and evaluation sheet are as follows:

1	2	3	4	5
Bottom 50% of all entries	Top 50% of all entries	Top 25% of all entries	Top 10% of all entries	Top 5% of all entries

Introduction:

_____ Clarity, pertinence, and completeness of literature review.

_____ Clarity of research question being asked.

_____ Creativity of research question being asked.

Methods

- _____ Clarity of the methods and procedures.
- _____ Adequacy of the sample and sample size for the research question asked.
- _____ Adequacy of the methods in answering the research question.

Results

- _____ Clarity of the presentation of the results.
- _____ Adequacy of the statistics used to test the research question.
- _____ Level of sophistication and understanding of the analyses/statistics used.

Discussion

- _____ How well the author integrates his/her data with that of the literature.
- _____ How well the interpretations clearly follow from the data.
- _____ Clear discussion of the limits of the data.

Overall (Gestalt impression)

- _____ The components of the paper/poster fit and transition together well.
- _____ The amount of “novel” (as opposed to “faculty based”) input on each of the above. (Here, all faculty sponsoring students will submit a letter clearly spelling out their contributions versus the Student’s contributions.)
- _____ Overall impression of the research sophistication of the study.

Verbal presentation

_____ Clarity of presentation.

_____ Their understanding of the relevant literature.

_____ Their understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the design

_____ Their accuracy in answering questions.

_____ Their completeness in answering questions.

_____ Total student score. (Calculated by adding up all the scores.)