

**Student
of the Year
Competition
Information
Packet**

Applicant Guidelines

- I. Candidates must meet the following criteria:
 - a. Must have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA
 - b. Credit Hour Requirements:
 - i. Undergraduate Student of the Year:
 1. Must be an undergraduate student, in good standing, currently enrolled in at least 6 credit hours at Wichita State University.
 2. Must have completed at least 60 credit hours, with a minimum of 30 hours begin completed at Wichita State University.
 - ii. Graduate Student of the Year:
 1. Must be a graduate student, in good standing, currently enrolled in at least 3 credit hours at Wichita State University.
 - c. Must complete the application, in its entirety, including all essay questions as well as the successful upload of a resume and headshot in the request formats.
 - d. Must complete the Conduct Status Release Form: <https://wichita.campuslabs.com/engage/submitter/form/start/211860>. This action gives permission to check the applicant's status with Student Conduct and Community Standards. Applicants must be in good standing with student conduct and my not be currently under any sanction or investigation status.
 - e. Must receive one letter of recommendation, submitted by the writer, by the application deadline here: <https://wichita.campuslabs.com/engage/submitter/form/start/531831>
 - f. Must electronically sign the FERPA and publicity release statements included in the ShockerSync Application.
 - g. Applications will only be accepted online through the forms provided and must be completed by Sunday, April 10, 2022, at 11:59 PM.
- II. Any qualified student who meets the above criteria may apply.
- III. Any falsification on an application or during the competition will result in disqualification.

Application Process

- IV. Explanation of selection rounds:
 - a. Round 1: Application Review
 - b. Round 2: Interview/Presentations: Interviews will be conducted April 15-16, 8am-5pm, and candidates will be contacted by April 12th to select an interview time.
- V. There will be 10 undergraduate finalists and 5 graduate finalists. The 15 candidates will be required to attend the following events where they will be introduced to the University. These events include:
 - a. Shocker Leadership Awards: Wednesday, May 4 | 5-7pm | RSC 3rd Floor Ballroom
- VI. All applicants will not only be competing for the Student of the Year title but will also be competing for one of 15 scholarships awarded to the finalists. Two \$1000 scholarships will be awarded to one Graduate and Undergraduate winner. Scholarships of \$500 will be awarded to the remaining finalists.

Requirements & Scoring

Application Round:

- a. An initial screening of applications will take place to ensure all applications materials are received in their entirety and formatted correctly. Applications will be scored as follows:

I. Online Application: 70 Points

- a. Essays: *50 Points*
Essays will be judged according to the candidate's ability to communicate ideas on the essay questions provided. These will be listed in the online application.
- b. Application Presentation: *5 Points*
Up to 5 points will be awarded based upon the quality of the candidate's application. This includes the candidate's ability to correctly complete the application as well as proper use of the English language (grammar, spelling, etc.).
- c. Academic Strength: *15 Points*
A set number of points will be awarded for cumulative GPA according to the scale:
 - i. 4.00 = 15
 - ii. 3.700-3.999 = 13
 - iii. 3.400-3.699 = 11
 - iv. 3.000-3.399 = 8

II. Resume: 30 Points

- a. Consistency and Format: *5 Points*
 - i. Reads clearly, articulately and concisely. Submitted in PDF Format. No longer than 2 pages.
- b. Grammar and Spelling: *5 Points*
- c. University Involvement: *25 Points*
 - i. Participation/Membership in Student Organization(s)
List only university related organizational involvement (e.g. Student Government, Student Alumni Association, athletic participation, fraternal organizations, honor societies, etc.). Please include the name of the organization, years active, any leadership position held, the date(s) of leadership position(s) held, and a brief description of personal responsibilities and activities in each organization, not those of the organization as a whole.
 - ii. Campus Honors/Awards
Please list all honors, awards, and/or scholarships received during the candidate's college career. Candidates should briefly explain each honor, award, scholarship, etc. listed, and should also be prepared to discuss anything within the application during the interview.
 - iii. Other Campus Involvement
Please list any relevant campus involvement (i.e., research with faculty, campus job/employment, volunteerism, etc.). Again, candidates should be prepared to discuss anything within the application during the interview.

- iv. Graduate Program Participation (if applicable)
List any activities you are part of concurrent with your individual program. (e.g., Research, Field Experience, Internships, Thesis, etc.). Briefly describe the activity with its purpose and your role or level of engagement.
- v. Non-University Involvement
This category includes other commitments, work experience, community service, non-WSU organizational activities, or other groups the candidate might have been involved in or associated with, that can provide the judges with a better idea of who the candidate is as an individual.

III. Letter of Recommendation Received:

- a. One letter of recommendation is to be submitted. If additional letters are submitted, the first letter received will serve as the official letter of recommendation.
- b. Applicants that do not receive a letter of recommendation will be disqualified.

Interview/Presentation Round

If selected for round two be prepared to be available to interview Friday, April 15-Saturday, April 16 between 8am-5pm. This is the only time interviews will take place.

I. Presentation – 40 points

This category allows judges to learn more about the candidates and their view on leadership. Each finalist will give a maximum 10-minute presentation on why you should be chosen as this year's winner. Finalists will present to a set of judges, who will have five minutes for questions following the presentation. Following the presentation, the judges will move immediately into the interview round.

Note: Judges will be WSU faculty and staff. Each judge evaluates the candidates individually and scores accordingly.

II. Interview – 40 points

- a. Areas to be judged include:
 - i. The candidate's ability to answer questions efficiently and the manner in which the candidate conducts during the interview.
 - ii. Candidates will be judged by a panel of approximately three to five judges. Each interview will last a maximum of 20 minutes with judges asking questions of each candidate based on the information provided on their application and presentation.

IV. Overall Impression: 20 points

This category allows judges to award points based on information received in interviews or on the application, which does not fall into any other category. This includes the letter of recommendation, application materials, essay responses, as well as the overall impression received by the judges.

FINALISTS: Finalists will be notified by Friday April 22, 2022, after round two is completed and scored. Should you be selected as a finalist, your attendance at Shocker Leadership Awards will be expected. The overall Undergraduate and Graduate Student of the Year will be announced at this event.

Student of the Year Competition

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can past Man and Woman of the Year, Student of the Year, or Graduate Student of the Year candidates and finalists apply for the Student of the Year competition?

A: Those who have made it to the interview round of their respective competition may apply again, but past finalists and winners are not eligible to apply.

Q: Who can/should write the letter of recommendation?

A: Someone with credibility should write the letter. Faculty and staff from institutions which you have had a working relationship with, an employer, or an advisor of an organization you are a member in are good options. Keep in mind the letter of recommendation is part of the Overall Impression score.

Q: What is my classification? Do I need to get it from the Registrar?

A: Your classification is the year you are in school. It is determined by the number of credit hours you have taken. Only Juniors, Seniors and Graduate students can apply for this award. You do not need to obtain your classification from the Registrar.

Q: How are candidates chosen for interviews?

A: There will be an initial screening of applications to determine which applicants will move on to the interview round. Those applicants will then be reviewed by the judges. The judges will score the applications to determine who will move on to the interview round.

Q: Can I apply if I am studying abroad this semester?

A: Yes. We can make accommodations to conduct both the interview and presentation rounds through Zoom.

Q: Can I apply if I am employed through Wichita State?

A: Yes. This scholarship competition is open to any student who meets the minimum criteria.

Q: Can I apply if I am an online student?

A: Yes. If you meet the minimum criteria and are a currently enrolled student at Wichita State, you are eligible to apply.