

The Official Guide to the MWACSM Awards Program Guide

Conference Dates: October 21-23, 2026

Application Deadline for Pre-Meeting Student Awards:
September 14, 2026, at 11:59 PM (CST)

The Midwest Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine (MWACSM) is proud to recognize the outstanding contributions of its student members through a comprehensive awards program. Our awards are divided into three main categories: **Professional Awards**, which require a nomination; **Pre-Meeting Student Awards**, which require a formal application; **At-Meeting Student Awards**, for which all student presenters are considered if submitted by July 1st. Award winners will be recognized at the business meeting (final meeting/brunch) of the conference.

For any questions regarding the application process or criteria, please contact the Awards Committee Chair, Dr. Paul Reidy, at reidypt@miamioh.edu.

Professional Awards (Nomination Required)

Nomination Deadline: September 1

Professional of the Year Award

This award recognizes the achievements of certified professionals working in the Midwest region. The award is presented annually at the MWACSM Annual Meeting. The award winner will be recognized at the business meeting (final meeting/brunch) of the conference.

Founders Award

This award recognizes members who have been active, contributing members of the chapter. Recipients will receive acknowledgement of their dedication and professional contributions at the MWACSM Annual Meeting. The award winner will be recognized at the business meeting (final meeting/brunch) of the conference.

Pre-Meeting Student Scholar and Research Proposal Awards (Application Required)

Submission Deadline: September 14

These awards recognize students for excellence in scholarship and research planning. A formal application must be submitted by the deadline.

Student Scholar Awards

These awards honor students who have demonstrated outstanding scholastic achievement, leadership, and service.

Undergraduate Student Scholar Award

- **Eligibility:** Applicant must be a current MWACSM member and either currently enrolled as an undergraduate or have completed the qualifying work as an undergraduate. All application materials must be submitted and combined into a single PDF file for award consideration.
- **What Happens if You Win?** You will be publicly recognized at the MWACSM Annual Meeting at the business meeting (final meeting/brunch) of the conference for your outstanding scholastic and service accomplishments, a significant honor for your CV or graduate school applications.
- **Application Materials:** Combine into a **single PDF file**:
 - A cover letter (1 page) and personal statement (up to 2 pages) detailing scholastic and service accomplishments.
 - Two letters of nomination from faculty/supervisors.
 - A current resume or curriculum vitae (CV).
 - A copy of your academic transcripts.

Graduate or Professional Student Scholar Award

- **Eligibility:** Applicant must be a current MWACSM member and currently enrolled as a graduate or professional student. All application materials must be submitted and combined into a single PDF file for award consideration.
- **What Happens if You Win?** You will be publicly recognized at the MWACSM Annual Meeting at the business meeting (final meeting/brunch) of the conference. This prestigious, peer-reviewed award adds significant value to your professional profile.
- **Application Materials:** Combine into a **single PDF file**:
 - A cover letter (1 page) and personal statement (up to 2 pages) detailing scholastic and service accomplishments.
 - Two letters of nomination from faculty/supervisors.
 - A current resume or curriculum vitae (CV).
 - A copy of your graduate and/or professional school transcripts.

Student Research Proposal Awards

These awards support and recognize outstanding research proposals from our student members. They are intended for projects that are yet to be completed or partially completed and require funding up to \$200 each.

Undergraduate Student Research Proposal Award

- **Eligibility:** Applicant must be a current MWACSM member and currently enrolled as an undergraduate student. All application materials must be submitted and combined into a single PDF file for award consideration.
- **What Happens if You Win?** You will be publicly recognized at the MWACSM Annual Meeting at the business meeting (final meeting/brunch) of the conference for the scientific merit of your research proposal, a key component for securing future research opportunities.
- **Application Materials:** Combine into a **single PDF file**:
 - A cover letter with an abstract (1 page) summarizing the proposed methods, project needs, and the specific role and responsibilities of the student.
 - A research proposal (max 5 double-spaced pages) including purpose, methods, timeline, and budget.
 - One letter of endorsement from a faculty supervisor.
 - A current resume or curriculum vitae (CV).
 - A copy of your undergraduate academic transcripts.

Graduate or Professional Student Research Proposal Award

- **Eligibility:** Applicant must be a current MWACSM member and currently enrolled as a graduate or professional student. All application materials must be submitted and combined into a single PDF file for award consideration.
- **What Happens if You Win?** You will be publicly recognized at the MWACSM Annual Meeting at the business meeting (final meeting/brunch) of the conference for your excellent research proposal. This award signifies the high quality of your work and can be highlighted on grant applications and your CV.
- **Application Materials:** Combine into a **single PDF file**:
 - A cover letter with an abstract (1 page) summarizing the proposed methods, project needs, and the specific role and responsibilities of the student.
 - A research proposal (max 5 double-spaced pages) including purpose, methods, timeline, and budget.
 - One letter of endorsement from a faculty supervisor.
 - A current resume or curriculum vitae (CV).
 - A copy of your undergraduate and graduate academic transcripts.

Part 2: At-Meeting Student Presentation Awards (Eligible if Submitted by July 1)

Submission Deadline: July 1

All students who present their research (either poster or oral) at the Annual Meeting are entered to win these awards if abstract is submitted by July 1. Winners are determined based on judges evaluation scores.

Outstanding Student Poster Presentation Awards (Undergraduate, Masters, Doctoral)

- **Description:** Awarded to the best poster presentations at each academic level.
- **Eligibility:** Applicant must be a current MWACSM member and currently enrolled as a student. Abstract must be submitted by the first deadline (July 1).
- **What Happens if You Win?** You will be recognized at the business meeting (final meeting/brunch) of the conference, a significant honor that demonstrates your ability to communicate research effectively.

Outstanding Student Oral Presentation Awards (Undergraduate, Masters, Doctoral)

- **Description:** Awarded to the best oral presentations at each academic level.
- **Eligibility:** Applicant must be a current MWACSM member and currently enrolled as a student. Abstract must be submitted by the first deadline (July 1).
- **What Happens if You Win?** You will be recognized at the business meeting (final meeting/brunch at conference), highlighting your presentation skills and the quality of your research.

President's Cup Award

- **Description:** This is the highest honor for a student presentation. The award is given to the student with the highest-scoring presentation (oral or poster) at the meeting. The President's Cup is an annual research competition held during the national ACSM Annual Meeting.
- **Eligibility:** Applicant must be a current MWACSM member and currently enrolled as a student. Abstract must be submitted by the first deadline (July 1).
- **What Happens if You Win?** You will be recognized at the business meeting (final meeting/brunch at conference). You will receive a **\$1200 stipend** to support attendance and travel to the national ACSM Annual Meeting and represent the Midwest chapter in the prestigious President's Cup competition. The stipend will be paid post-meeting after the winner has participated in the national-level competition. If the winner also places first in their specific category (e.g., Doctoral Poster), the second-place finisher in that category is elevated to first place.