

Department of History, Philosophy and Geography
Western Excellence Awards

Each year, the Department of History, Philosophy and Geography (HPG) confers between two and six Western Excellence Awards. Each award is worth \$500-\$1500, depending on the number of recipients. At least one award will be awarded to an incoming freshman. Applications for these awards are judged on a competitive basis. Not all applicants receive awards.

Basic Criteria for this Award:

Applicants must either be MWSU students majoring or minoring in one of the programs in the History, Philosophy and Geography Department, or incoming students (freshman or transfer) who are interested in pursuing a course of study in one of these fields.

If you have not yet declared a major or minor, you must, nevertheless, have an advisor in the History, Philosophy and Geography Department. You must chart a program of study for the upcoming semester(s) that meets the approval of your advisor. You must enroll in a minimum of 12 semester hours in each semester you receive the award.

You must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25 to qualify for an award. If you are an incoming freshman, your secondary school records will be considered in lieu of a college cumulative grade point average.

You must provide the names and contact information of two persons who are familiar with your academic skills and record. These individuals may be contacted regarding your application for this award.

Awards are granted yearly, but are distributed on a semester by semester basis. In order to retain your award you must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.25 and pursue an appropriate course of study in one of the major/minor fields in the HPG department. Failure to do so will result in the termination of the award.

Essay Instructions:

Before proceeding, please be sure that you have completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (www.fafsa.ed.gov) and MWSU's general scholarship application (<http://www.missouriwestern.edu/FinAid/ScholarshipsApplyfor.htm>) by March 1.

Essays for the HPG Western Excellence Award should be submitted as soon as possible in the Spring semester. Essays submitted by March 15 will receive priority consideration. Please forward completed essays to Dr. Jimm MacGregor (macgregor@missouriwestern.edu) or submit them in person to the History, Philosophy and Geography Department, 115 Popplewell Hall.

Compose a 250-300 word essay (1 page, double-spaced) in which you outline your educational and career goals, and discuss the ways in which a course of study in history, philosophy, geography, or the humanities will prepare you to meet those goals.