

Departments of History and Geography & Philosophy and Religion
Western Excellence Awards
Application/Essay Instructions

Please read the following carefully.

Each year, the Department of History and Geography, Philosophy and Religion (HG & PR) confers between two and six Western Excellence Awards. Each award is worth \$500-\$1500 depending on the number of recipients. Applications for these awards are judged on a competitive basis. Not all applicants receive awards.

The application deadline is March 1.

To qualify for an HG & PR Western Achievement Award you must:

- Be an MWSU student (or intended student, if an incoming freshman or transfer student) who is majoring or minoring in one of the programs in the History and Geography, Philosophy and Religion Department. If you have not yet declared a major or minor, you must, nevertheless, have completed departmental pre-major forms and have been assigned an advisor. You must have charted a program of study for the upcoming semester(s) approved by your advisor.
- 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. To retain an award, you must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.25.
- Submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (www.fafsa.ed.gov) and MWSU's general scholarship application (<http://www.missouriwestern.edu/FinAid/ScholarshipsApplyfor.htm>) to MWSU's financial aid office by March 1. Financial need will be taken into consideration but is not a requirement for receiving an award.
- Enroll in a minimum of 12 semester hours in each semester you receive the scholarship.
- A copy of your Major Advisement Form (obtained from faculty advisor) must be submitted with each application.
- Pursue an appropriate course of study in one of the major/minor fields in the HG & PR department. Failure to do so will result in termination of the award.
- Compose a 250-300 word essay in which you outline your educational and career goals, and discuss the ways in which a course of study in history, philosophy, geography, humanities, or religion will prepare you to meet those goals. Essays for the HG & PR Western Excellence Award should be submitted with your online application.